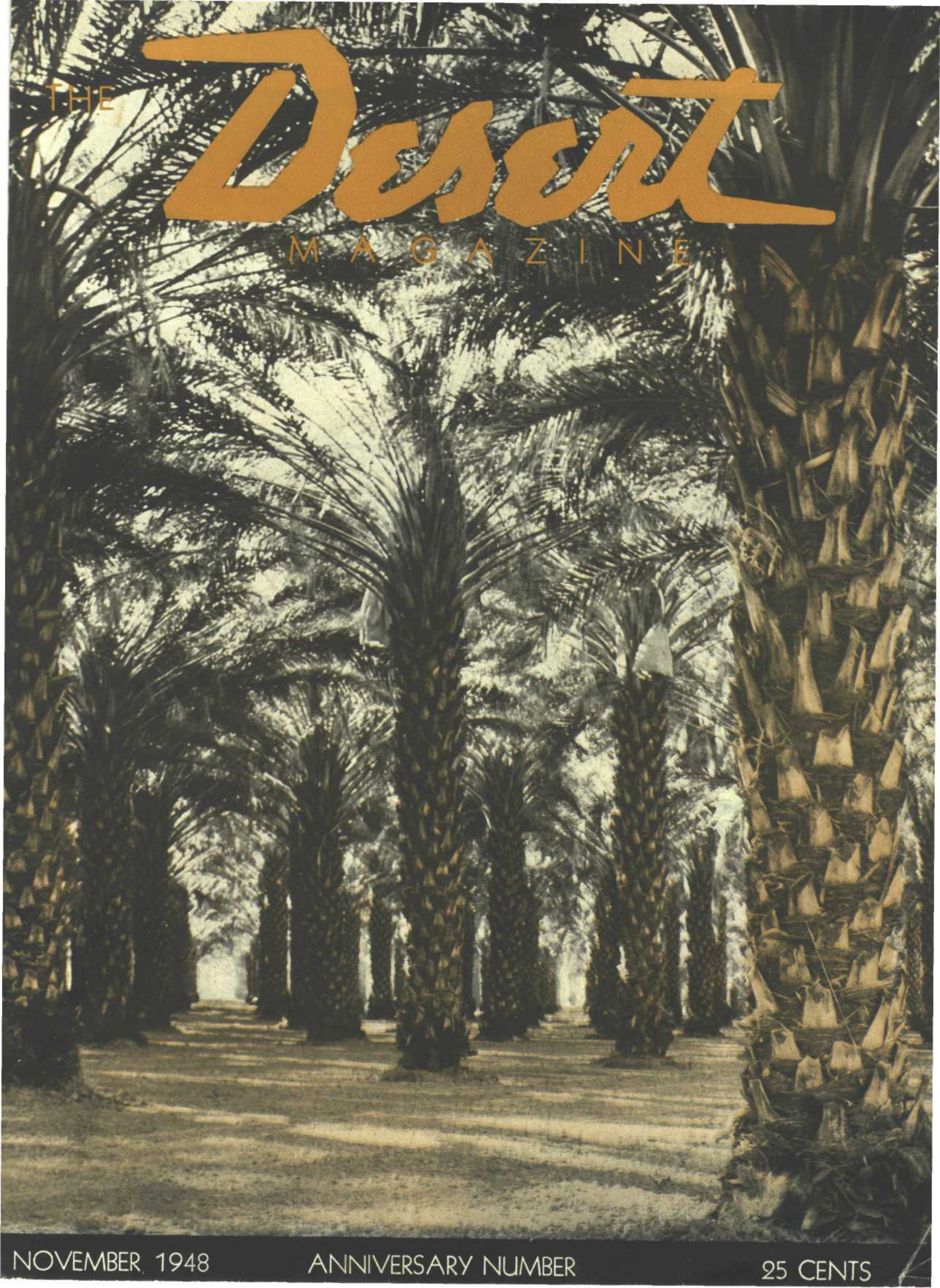
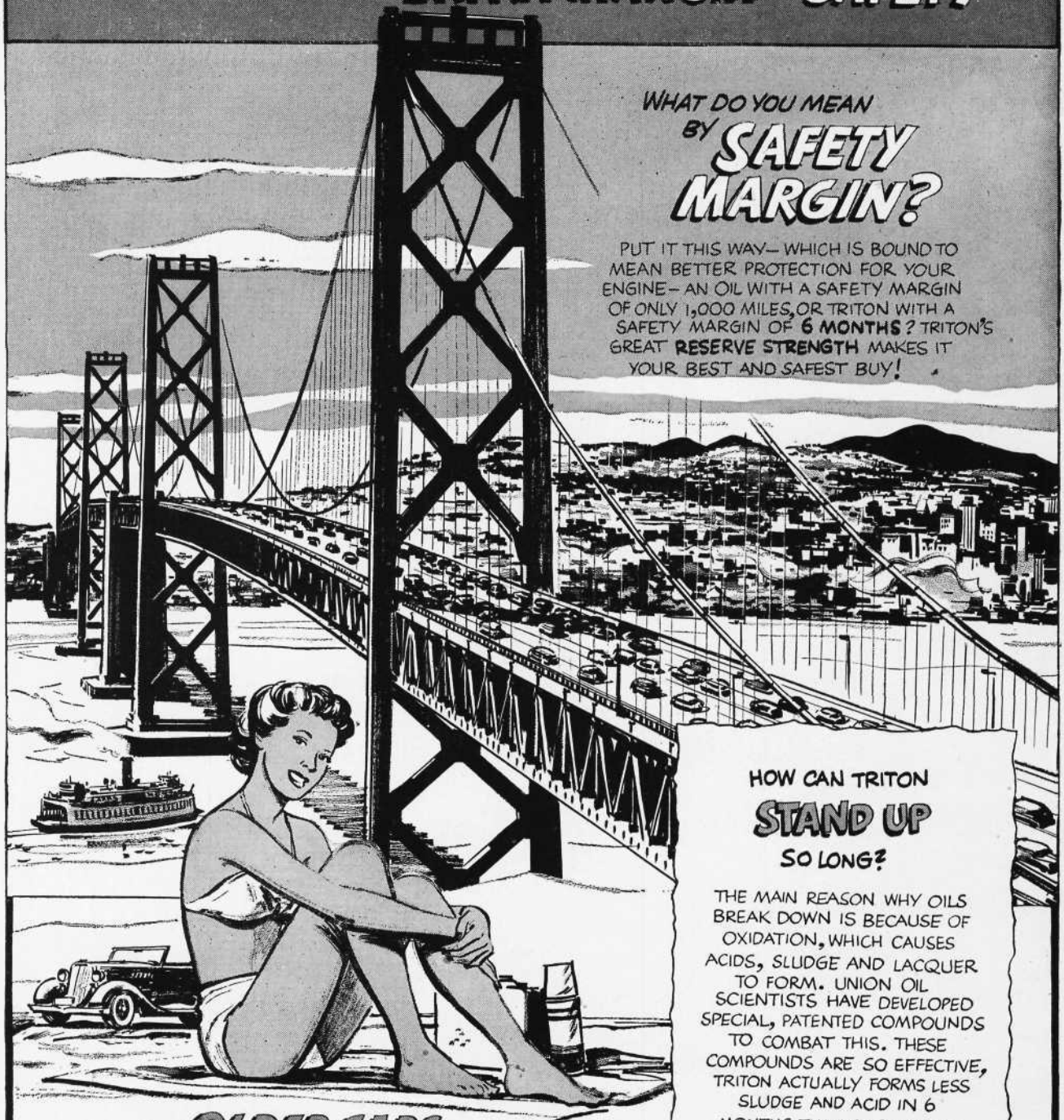


NOVEMBER, 1948 ANNIVERSARY NUMBER 25 CENTS

WHY TRITON GIVES AN EXTRA MARGIN OF SAFETY-



WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SAFETY MARGIN?

PUT IT THIS WAY—WHICH IS BOUND TO MEAN BETTER PROTECTION FOR YOUR ENGINE—AN OIL WITH A SAFETY MARGIN OF ONLY 1,000 MILES, OR TRITON WITH A SAFETY MARGIN OF **6 MONTHS**? TRITON'S GREAT **RESERVE STRENGTH** MAKES IT YOUR BEST AND SAFEST BUY!

HOW CAN TRITON STAND UP SO LONG?

THE MAIN REASON WHY OILS BREAK DOWN IS BECAUSE OF OXIDATION, WHICH CAUSES ACIDS, SLUDGE AND LACQUER TO FORM. UNION OIL SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIAL, PATENTED COMPOUNDS TO COMBAT THIS. THESE COMPOUNDS ARE SO EFFECTIVE, TRITON ACTUALLY FORMS LESS SLUDGE AND ACID IN 6 MONTHS THAN OILS USED TO FORM IN 1,000 MILES!

CAN OLDER CARS USE TRITON?

YES. TRITON IS SO HIGH IN QUALITY IT WILL GIVE **ANY CAR** EXTRA LUBRICATION PROTECTION!

WHAT DO CAR MANUFACTURERS SAY?

CAR MANUFACTURERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON OIL DRAINS VARY CONSIDERABLY. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF THE DRAIN INTERVAL YOU PREFER, TRITON GIVES YOU A DRIVING RESERVE OF 6 MONTHS—**AN EXTRA MARGIN OF SAFETY!**

Notice: Triton is now sold at many independent stations and garages as well as the regular Union Oil stations. If your particular dealer doesn't carry Triton, ask him to stock it for you.

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

DESERT CALENDAR

Nov. 1—Nevada day, the state's 85th anniversary of statehood, Carson City, Nevada.

Nov. 1—Eve of All Soul's Day, celebrated as Spanish Halloween, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and other Spanish-American villages.

Nov. 2—All Soul's Day. Spanish Memorial day, in Spanish-American villages, New Mexico.

Nov. 5-14—Arizona state fair, fairgrounds, Phoenix, Arizona.

Nov. 6-7—Annual Old Tucson Days, Indian dances, cowboy events, fiesta, parade, Tucson, Arizona.

Nov. 7—And following Sundays, lectures on Southwestern subjects, Southwest Museum, Highland Park, Los Angeles, California. November museum exhibit, watercolors by the Navajo artist Beatien Yazz (Little No-Shirt) who illustrated "Spin a Silver Dollar."

Nov. 11—Armistice day rodeo and barbecue, Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Nov. 12—Feast day of San Diego, annual fiesta and Harvest Corn dance, Tesuque pueblo, New Mexico.

Nov. 12—Annual fiesta and Harvest Corn dance, Jemez pueblo, New Mexico.

Nov. 13-17—Ogden Livestock show, Ogden, Utah.

Nov. 18-20—Nevada state farm bureau convention, Reno, Nevada.

Nov. 19-20—International Rodeo convention, Reno, Nevada.

Pinon Incense...

Bring the delightful fragrance of the Pinon Forest into your home or office. The burner is a miniature model of the outdoor baking ovens used by prehistoric Indians, and still in use in New Mexico pueblos. When the little cones of genuine pinon pine are burned in this tiny oven the aroma is a breath of the outdoor Southwest.

Kills kitchen and bathroom odors and removes the smell of stale tobacco. Pueblo Indians burn pinon for nasal and bronchial ailments.

Burner and 15 cones postpaid to you

$1.50

DESERT CRAFTS SHOP

Palm Desert, California

Volume 12 **NOVEMBER, 1948** **Number 1**

COVER	COACHELLA DATE GARDEN. Photograph by B. Freeman, Los Angeles, California.	
CALENDAR	November events on the desert	3
PERSONALITY	La Patrona of the Date Gardens By LOIS ELDER ROY	5
DESERT QUIZ	A test of your desert knowledge	9
FIELD TRIP	Blue Agate at Eagle Crags By HAROLD O. WEIGHT	10
POETRY	The Sand Painters, by NINA PAUL SHUMWAY	16
JOURNALISM	Desert's First 11 Years	17
EDITORIAL	There Are Two Deserts	21
BOTANY	Healing Berries, by MARY BEAL	22
NATURE	Freak Tree of the Peninsula By LEWIS W. WALKER	23
PHOTOGRAPHY	Contest winners for September	25
LETTERS	Comment from Desert readers	26
CRAFTS	She Sells the Incense of the Pinyon Forest By DOROTHY L. PILLSBURY	27
MINING	Current news of desert mines	30
NEWS	From here and there on the desert	31
HUMOR	Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley	34
CONTEST	Prize announcement for photographers	36
CLOSE-UPS	About Desert Magazine writers	39
LAPIDARY	Amateur Gem Cutter by LELANDE QUICK	40
HOBBY	Gems and Minerals	41
COMMENT	Just Between You and Me, by the Editor	46
BOOKS	Reviews of Southwest Literature	47

The Desert Magazine is published monthly by the Desert Press, Inc., Palm Desert, California. Re-entered as second class matter July 17, 1948 at the post office at Palm Desert, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Title registered No. 358865 in U. S. Patent Office, and contents copyrighted 1948 by the Desert Press, Inc. Permission to reproduce contents must be secured from the editor in writing.

RANDALL HENDERSON, Editor BESS STACY, Business Manager

HAROLD and LUCILE WEIGHT, Associate Editors.

Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs submitted cannot be returned or acknowledged unless full return postage is enclosed. Desert Magazine assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of manuscripts or photographs although due care will be exercised. Subscribers should send notice of change of address by the first of the month preceding issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year . . . $3.00 Two Years . . . $5.00

Canadian subscriptions 25c extra, foreign 50c extra.

Subscription to Army personnel outside U.S.A. must be mailed in conformity with P.O.D. Order No. 19687.

Address correspondence to Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California.

Why Make Your Home in *Palm Desert*?

One of the reasons why hundreds of far-sighted builders and investors have purchased home and business sites in Palm Desert community during the last two years is the charm and convenience of its location on the rim of

COACHELLA VALLEY

This inland valley, less than 100 miles from Los Angeles, is a great fertile bowl almost entirely surrounded by mountains. Here the gardens are green and colorful every day of the year—the grape harvest is in May, the dates are picked in the fall, the grapefruit in late winter and spring, the vegetable crops are shipped to market every month.

Palm Desert homes are built on a gentle slope at the base of the mountains overlooking the gardens on the floor of the valley below. And in the distance may be seen the snow-capped peaks of San Jacinto, San Gorgonio and Santa Rosa.

Here are combined the sunshine, the pure air and water, the wide-spacing of a model desert community, with a scenic background rarely equalled. Here are the health and freedom of desert living with all the conveniences you could want—abundant water, natural gas, electricity, paved streets and highways—with schools and churches and libraries not far away.

Coachella valley is a versatile community, combining ranching and business enterprise with high cultural standards—the place for the home you have dreamed about.

In the long range planning of Palm Desert, the cultural, recreational and commercial aspects of good living have been kept in perfect balance. This is a community for full rich living.

For information regarding home or business property in Palm Desert community write to

PALM DESERT CORPORATION

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Clifford W. Henderson, Founder, President

Hollywood Office: 8622 Sunset Blvd.
Telephone CRestview 55269

Tract Office on Property or See Your Broker
Edith Ward, Tract Agent

THE DESERT MAGAZINE

Edna Langdon Cast, "Boss Lady" of the Garden of the Setting Sun. George M. Roy photo.

La Patrona of the Date Gardens

When Charlie Cast bought a young date garden on the Southern California desert many years ago, his wife didn't think much of the investment. She was an Ohio girl and could not understand why anyone would live on the desert. But she learned why—and during the last 26 years has developed a world-wide market for her date products. This is the story of Edna Cast of the Garden of the Setting Sun.

By LOIS ELDER ROY

ONE blistering day in July, 1920, an elderly man from Riverside, California, was bumping along over the dusty roads that wound among the dunes and mesquite thickets of the Southern California desert. On the touring car seat beside him was a stylishly dressed young woman in a tight-fitting blue serge dress with a chin-high collar.

Obviously, she was very uncomfortable. Also, very unhappy, for this business of owning a date garden in Coachella valley was not her idea. Her husband had come west from their Wilmington, Ohio, home two years previously and had become so enthusiastic over the possibilities of the new date industry in California he had invested their savings in 30 acres of knee-high date palms near Mecca. He bought it without her knowledge or consent.

And now, Edna Langdon Cast was accompanying her father on her first trip out to the desert to see the date garden. She wasn't impressed. She knew nothing about dates, and being a city girl, she couldn't understand why anyone would want to live in such a hot disagreeable place.

But Charlie, her husband, was in poor health. He felt better in the desert sunshine. And nothing Edna could say altered his determination to establish a home out there as soon as the date trees would yield a living income.

"All right," she finally consented. "For your sake I'll go. You stay here and look after the business. I'll do the best I can, and as soon as I get things going you come out and join me."

It was in the spring of 1922 that Edna Cast and her little daughter Mary arrived in Mecca ready to undertake the task of putting a badly neglected date garden in shape.

As the busy weeks passed by, Edna became more and more intrigued with the subject of date culture—a subject dating back to remote antiquity. The fact that dates are found in the tombs of ancient monarchs and that avenging armies, because of the superior food value in dates, had never destroyed them, fascinated her. She learned by studying the cultural background of this youthful American industry that right there in the Coachella valley conditions for date culture were more favorable than any other place in the United States. Experimental plantings, she learned, had been going on since 1906 when offshoots of the date palm were brought over from North Africa and the Persian gulf region where the climate is similar to that of this California valley.

It was not until January, 1923, that she was ready for Charlie to join her. From then on they were partners in every sense of the word. Edna had caught the vision — the romance of waving palms against purpling hills and desert skies, whose ever widening vistas have never ceased to lure her on even though the going today, in this age of complex living, is still a bit rugged.

Side by side Edna and Charlie worked and planned and dreamed.

They prepared the fields, set out new off-shoots, laid pipe lines. It was tedious labor. Dates cannot be raised from seed as can most other fruits, for the seeds will not breed true. Seeds of a long, light amber-colored, soft date may bring forth black dates, round dates or hard ones, so mixed and ancient is the ancestry of the date palm. If a special variety is desired, then the off-shoots that grow around the base of the palm tree, like suckers on corn, are cut from their parent tree and set out in orchard form. These alone will reproduce the parent palm identically. They are usually set out at the rate of 49 palms to the acre, 30 feet apart, making seven rows, seven palms to the row.

Perhaps as tedious as any part of the long process of date culture is the hand pollinating. The female palm bears blossoms but they have no odor and no sweetness. They do not attract the pollen-carrying bees or insects. It is necessary, therefore, to take the larger, more showy male blossoms and hand pollinate the female trees which alone bear fruit. It required weeks for Edna and Charlie to complete this task. The method of pollination varies in different gardens. Some tap the male blossome over paper-covered tables, allowing the pollen that sifts out to cure before using. This is then placed in bottles with cotton stoppers. Care must be taken that the pollen is given air so that it will not mold. Some gardens divide the blossom up into strands, others use the whole blossom.

After the Casts had completed their first pollination, Edna became enthusiastic and began preparations for the sale of her dates. She decided that if she were going to grow dates, they would be the most beautiful dates in the world. That was a significant and wholly typical decision and one which still inspires the entire staff at the Garden of the Setting Sun, as the Cast garden is now nationally known.

Deciding on a color scheme, Edna bought quantities of expensive moire material with which she painstakingly covered dozens of pound-size boxes. Each box was supplied with sufficient purple satin ribbon to be tied later into artistic bows. In the 25 years that have passed since that first crop, packaging of commercial products has progressed far from the moire and ribbon but always Edna Cast has dressed up her superior dates in fancy packages. Now they go out in attractively colored cellophane. On each package of dates is a little message, a historical note, some appealing line of information to give added interest to the parcel.

By the time that first crop was ready, the Cast living room had been transformed into an exotic and glorified sales room. The first customers were their guests and it mattered not whether they were rich or poor. On Sundays they would dress up in formal attire and entertain their ever-increasing circle of friends. To Edna, the Garden of the Setting Sun was always her "House Beside the Road." In those early days many duck hunters traveled to that area. Edna did everything she could to attract them, for they and the tourists who followed along the old Sunkist Trail through that part of the valley, constituted the only customers.

"Many people who stopped by our doorstep, liked our hospitality and the quality of our dates," Edna continued, re-living for the moment the visions and dreams of yesteryear. "To take care of our growing number of customers we needed more fruit. With more fruit we needed more customers! We were going around in circles! I well remember the first big order—10 cases of 8-ounce baskets of dates. The order came from Young's of Los Angeles. My young daughter, waving the telegram, came down to the garden where I was picking dates. To me that 10 cases represented a tremendous order—but I got it out so that it could make the ten o'clock train that night."

That marked the beginning of a new era in the Cast business. From the uncertain though growing retail business at their door, they were launched into the wholesale business! To meet the increasing demands for dates they had begun to purchase dates from neighboring ranchers.

One or two good salesmen were en-

Retail sales office and main warehouse at the Garden of the Setting Sun.

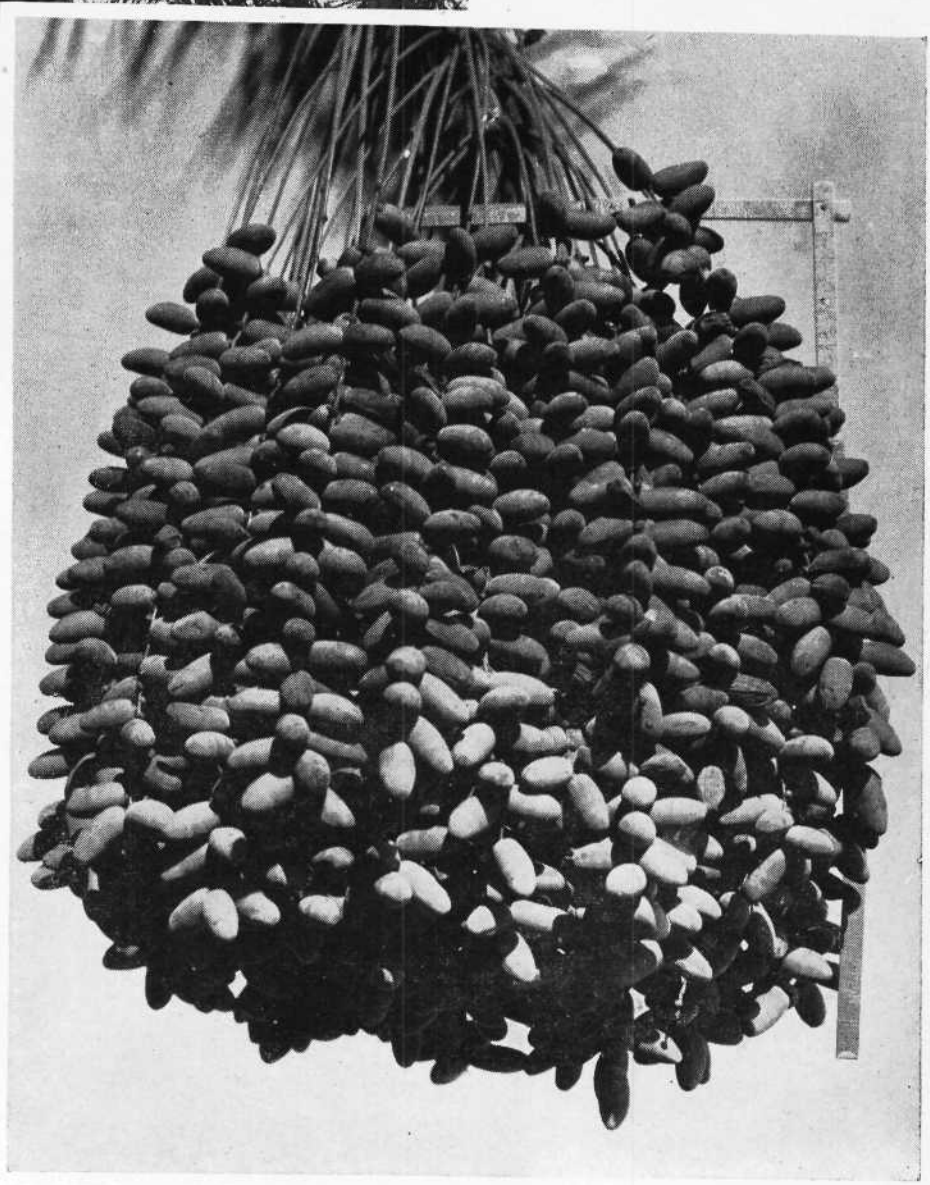
Dates never ripen all at once. To preserve the fine quality they are picked from the cluster as they ripen. The paper bags are to protect the ripening fruit from birds and from possible rain damage.

gaged to try to interest the larger stores and markets in representative cities. Today there is a staff of 45 sales representatives who cover the United States, Cuba, Canada and the Hawaiian Islands.

Because Edna insisted on packaging and selling only superior dates, the market was responsive. Her motto has been, and is: "Not as Good as Others, but Better Than Others." It was by trying to live up to this motto that she was able to interest important markets like Marshall Field, L. S. Ayers, Hudson, Fred Wolferman of Kansas City, and scores of other big retailers over the country.

With her entry into the wholesale field it might be expected that the retail business would be neglected but such was not the case. Rather, it was organized into a retail sales division and given added impetus and an increased sales staff. "We wanted a fancy name for this division that would arrest attention and stimulate sales," Edna said. "In seeking some exotic name, we thought of 'Pale Hands of the Shali-Mar.' Thinking it might be an infringement on the name of the romantic place in Northern India which was used as a retreat for the Rajahs, we added a "t" to the name, thus creating 'Shali-Mart.'" The Shali-Mart became thus the outlet for mail orders for the retail sales division which handles Edna Cast's date products direct to the consumer.

Except during the war period, American date producers have had to meet the competition of cheap imported dates from the Old World. "Fortunately for American growers," said



Prize cluster of quality dates, just beginning to mature.

This unusually fine crop of the famous Deglet Noor date is maturing this year.

Mrs. Cast, "a majority of American buyers are quality-conscious. We not only market the best dates that can be bought, but in handling and packing them we maintain a high standard of purity and cleanliness which really makes them a superior product. And most American buyers appreciate this quality."

Success didn't come to Charlie and Edna Cast all at once. In between the added sales and ever increasing list of important customers there were reverses. On Labor Day, 1941, they completed a group of modern buildings with which to take care of their tremendously increased production. That night they celebrated the important event and the whole community joined in the festivities. At noon the following day a cloudburst in the foothills that rim the Coachella valley sent a raging torrent down through the Garden and its new buildings. It was a terrible catastrophe. A huge floodlight was rigged up and people from miles around worked night and day until the debris was cleaned up. Due to excitement and heavy lifting, Charlie's heart was strained and he was taken to the hospital where he remained an invalid until Christmas.

Following the flood, the Casts built a bigger and better packing plant and warehouse. Then, during the night of March 11, 1943, fire broke out in the new packing plant. Before help could be summoned the blaze was out of control. The whole plant—with the exception of the Cast home—was burned to the ground. A whole carload of choice dates ready for shipment was destroyed; also 100,000 pounds in the packing house.

In the fall of 1944, Charlie's heart failed him and he passed on, leaving Edna to carry on alone. They had been a splendid team, Charlie handling the outside work, Edna managing the business end.

"There have been many reverses," Edna said, without trace of bitterness or regret, "and some of them have been hard to take. But I have found that each one has brought me just a little nearer the goal which has been my dream. Out of the ashes of our burned plant arose a bigger and better plant for our dates. Out of each reverse has come added growth and development. It has always been that way. Whenever I have lost a valued secretary or trusted employe, another one would always come along to take his place.

"And that," she confessed ruefully, "is the one thing that squashes my ego. My personnel turnover has been tremendous. At times I have employed and housed as many as one hundred persons." Today a fairsized little village marks the housing that Edna Cast provides for her employees. They are not shacks, but substantial cottages.

During the late war, she was able to obtain through the government a group

of Mexican nationals. At first they were low-spirited and resentful of the *Americano*. But by manifesting a little patience and understanding, she was able to accomplish wonders with them. It wasn't long until they were calling her their *La Patrona* which means "Boss lady" and is a very great compliment in their language. "One day," she laughed, "I came upon one of them looking so dejected that I stopped and asked if he were ill. Shaking his head he replied: 'When La Patrona sad, everybody sad. When she smile he work like the devil!' I had been so engrossed over my affairs that I hadn't taken time to smile much but thereafter I smiled often and they really worked hard for me."

During the early days of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, or "Triple A" program, Edna Cast was chosen as a member of the committee set up by government authority to regulate the production and sales within the date industry.This was a position of honor but it was also a source of financial loss. Some of the committee's decisions were not backed up by the government and this resulted in lawsuits to members of the committee who were forced to make financial restitution for alleged wrongs.

The kitchen of Edna Cast, which she calls her "date beauty parlor," contains what is said to be the largest collection of date recipes in the world. She believes that only the best dates should go to market to be eaten fresh. So the smaller and less attractive fruit will not be a loss, she has experimented through the years until now her dates go into all kinds of cakes, candies, puddings, ice cream and the dreamiest of all her date dreams—her delicious date butter. Regardless of size, every date is hand picked, hand groomed.

The Cast date garden does not begin to supply sufficient fruit to provide for the ever-expanding nation-wide sales. The long line of date products developed by Edna Cast is shipped to every State in the union and to many foreign countries. The Garden's 30 acres can provide only about 5 per cent of this and there has thus been developed a lucrative outlet for the crops of many of the date ranchers of the Coachella valley.

Although she feels that her ultimate goal is still a long way off, she derives much joy and satisfaction in the knowledge that she has achieved, to a certain degree, the "dream castle ideal" for which she and Charlie worked so hard and for which she expects to keep right on working—"to grow dates that are not just dates—to have customers who will be satisfied."

DESERT QUIZ

This quiz is not primarily to see how smart you are. Rather it is intended to refresh your knowledge of the history, geography, plant life, minerals, Indian lore and literature of the Southwest. The answers to all these questions have appeared in past issues of Desert Magazine. Ten to 12 is a fair score. Thirteen to 15 is good. Sixteen to 18 is superior. Any score above 18 is a rare exception. Answers are on page 26.

1—The famous 20-mule team wagons in the early days of Death Valley mining hauled—Gypsum..... Gold ore..... Rock salt..... Borax.....

2—The name Harry Goulding is associated with—Guide service in Grand canyon..... Mining in Goldfield..... A trading post in Monument valley..... Discovery of Rainbow bridge.....

3—Salt River valley in Arizona is served by water from—Hoover dam..... Elephant Butte dam..... Coolidge dam..... Roosevelt dam.....

4—Chief Winnemucca was a Paiute Indian..... Apache Indian..... Navajo Indian..... Hualpai Indian.....

5—Most conspicuous landmark on U. S. Highway 666 north of Gallup, New Mexico is—Morro rock..... Shiprock..... Elephant's Feet..... Mexican Hat.....

6—Panamint mountains are visible from—Salt Lake City..... Tucson, Arizona..... Death Valley..... Santa Fe, New Mexico.....

7—Desert Indians formerly sought the Chuckawalla lizard—As an omen of good luck..... To make moccasins of its hide..... To secure venom for poison arrows..... As food.....

8—Cactus fruit most popular with the Papago Indians for food comes from the—Cholla..... Organ Pipe cactus..... Saguaro..... Prickly Pear.....

9—Purpose of Father Escalante's trek from Santa Fe in 1776 was to—Explore the Colorado river..... Find a new route to Monterey, California..... Christianize the Ute Indians..... Found a mission at Great Salt Lake.....

10—If a Hopi Indian gave you some *piki* he would expect you to—Eat it..... Burn it as incense..... Hang it over the door for good luck..... Use it to charm snakes.....

11—The "Mountain Men" of the early days in the Southwest primarily were—Goldseekers..... Indian traders..... Trappers..... Army scouts.....

12—Tuzigoot national monument Indian dwellings were built by prehistoric—Cliff dwellers..... Pit dwellers..... Pueblo dwellers..... Cave dwellers.....

13—Smoki people hold their annual Snake dance at—Oraibi..... Prescott..... Flagstaff..... Gallup.....

14—Hardest rock in the following list is—Quartz..... Corundum..... Feldspar..... Topaz.....

15—Parker, Arizona, is entirely surrounded by the—Mojave Indian reservation..... Yuma Indian reservation..... Chemehuevi reservation..... Colorado River Indian reservation.....

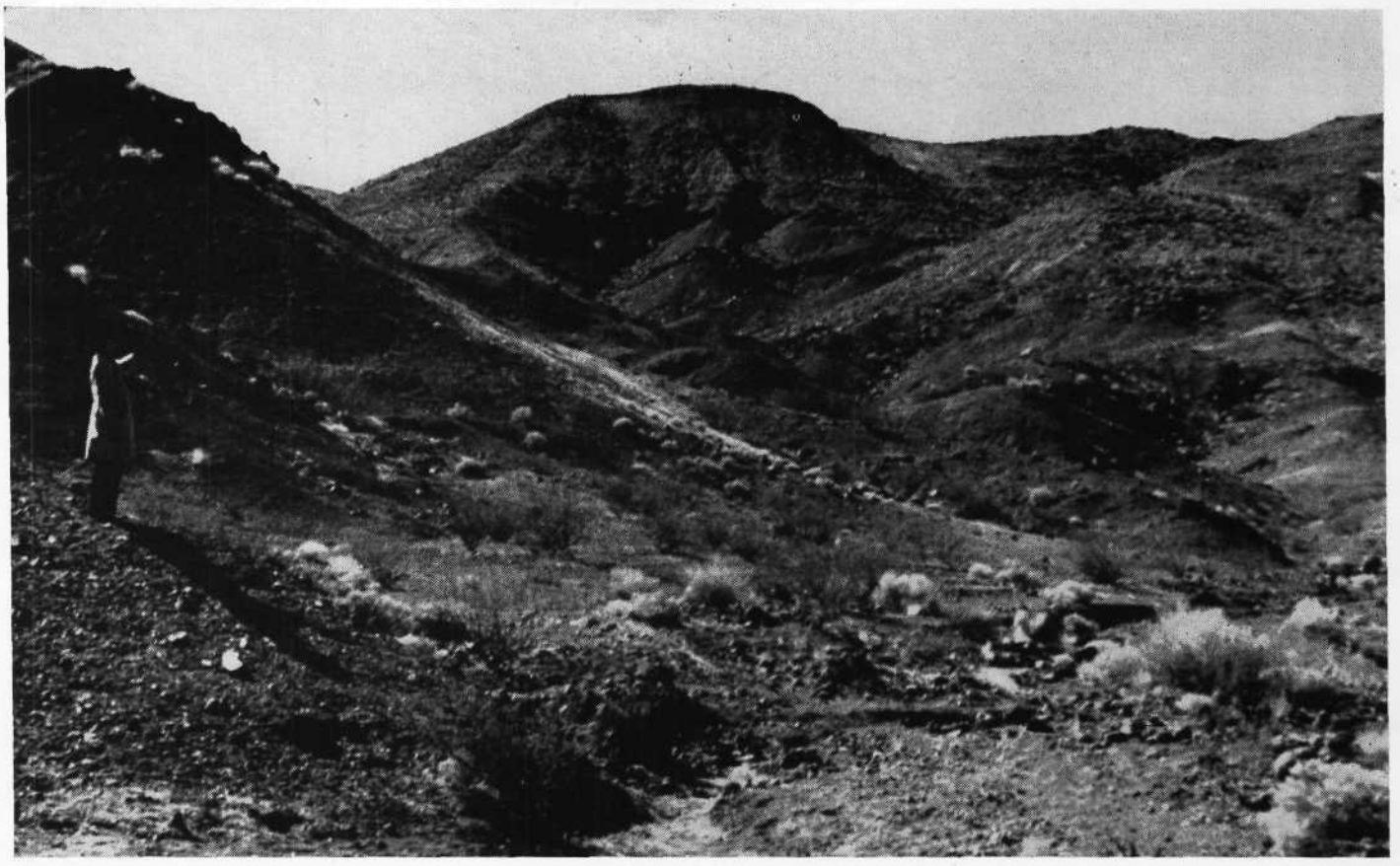
16—The desert screwbean grows on—Ironwood trees..... Mesquite..... Smoke tree..... Palo Verde.....

17—Jojoba is the name of—A desert plant..... An Indian tribe..... A Navajo chant..... One of the desert rodents.....

18—Arches national monument is located in — Arizona..... New Mexico..... Nevada..... Utah.....

19—The book *Desert Country* was written by—Edwin Corle..... Oren Arnold..... Edmund C. Jaeger..... Charles Kelly.....

20—The All-American canal was built to bring water to—Nogales, Arizona..... El Paso, Texas..... Imperial valley, California..... Gila river valley.....



View from one of the rockhound campsites. Those volcanic ash hills contain blue agate nodules. Lucile points toward the diggings from which much agate with red, yellow and green moss has been taken.

Blue Agate At Eagle Crags

Since this field trip was taken, Naval Ordnance Test station, China Lake, has closed off 864 square miles of Mojave collecting fields—552,960 acres—in addition to 1100 square miles already included in the navy empire at NOTS. The area mapped here appears to be included in the announced boundaries of the new range, which is posted. The navy has not announced why the action was necessary or whether the closing was permanent, but collectors and societies should investigate before entering the zone. However, if the navy closes the area to some rockhounds it must be closed to all rockhounds and some day—when the desert is free again—the rocks will be waiting on Sawtooth's eroded slopes.

By HAROLD O. WEIGHT

I HUNTED rocks in the Mojave desert's Sawtooth mountains before World War II, when ridges were strewn with cutting material and blue agate was found at the roadside. But none of the specimens I found matched the lovely orchid-amethystine gem which Sylvia Winslow displayed when Lucile and I visited the Winslow's Double S ranch at Bodfish, California, last February.

Most of the blue stone from this field loses much of its color when cut away from the matrix, or viewed by transmitted light. This piece had no matrix and no light could dim its color. It appeared to be part of a geode, and the distorted crystals of calcite, while retaining their crystalline form, had been transmuted by the wonderful alchemy of Nature to exquisite blue chalcedony.

Perhaps if it had not been for this luscious bit of chalcedony, we would have hesitated to make an overnight field trip under the circumstances. The Mojave usually is cold in February, and before we left El Centro, Slim Winslow had wired to warn that snow was falling in the Kern river canyon and on the desert. But, he added hopefully, if we would be foolish enough to come, the Winslows would be waiting. Slim believes firmly that in rock collecting, fortune favors the brash.

Sylvia was confident she could relocate the spot where she found her prize. She had built a little monument at the place. And Slim interrupted enthusiastically. Not only could we find the place, but by picking the right wash, we could drive to it. "I looked the country over," he declared. "I'm sure I can drive right there."

We made an early start in the chill mountain air. But, before leaving, we

Slim and Sylvia find good hunting in the moss-jasper of a little wash.

admired Sylvia's new desert paintings and studied construction progress on the Winslows' Little Gallery, where paintings and rocks soon will be on display.

The highway through Walker pass, 5250 feet, had been cleared by a plow, but snow was thick on the ground and on the Joshua trees. As we rolled down toward the desert, outriders of the Mojave wind buffeted against the windshield. All the desert mountains carried an unfamiliar crown of white, and far across the wastelands we could see Pilot Knob and the Eagle Crags, with the snow mantle far down their slopes. But the lure of blue chalcedony drew us on, and it was deceptively warm at Inyokern, where we filled our gas tanks and reserve cans.

The Sawtooth mountains and Eagle Crags lie southeast of Inyokern and northeast of Randsburg. The range literally is circled by desert roads, most of which date to early days of mining in the Mojave. The old 20-mule team route from the borax mines of Death Valley to the shipping point at Mojave follows the western flank of the mountains to Pilot Knob and Granite wells, at their southwestern tip. Pilot Knob has been a guide to prospectors and freighters since desert travel began.

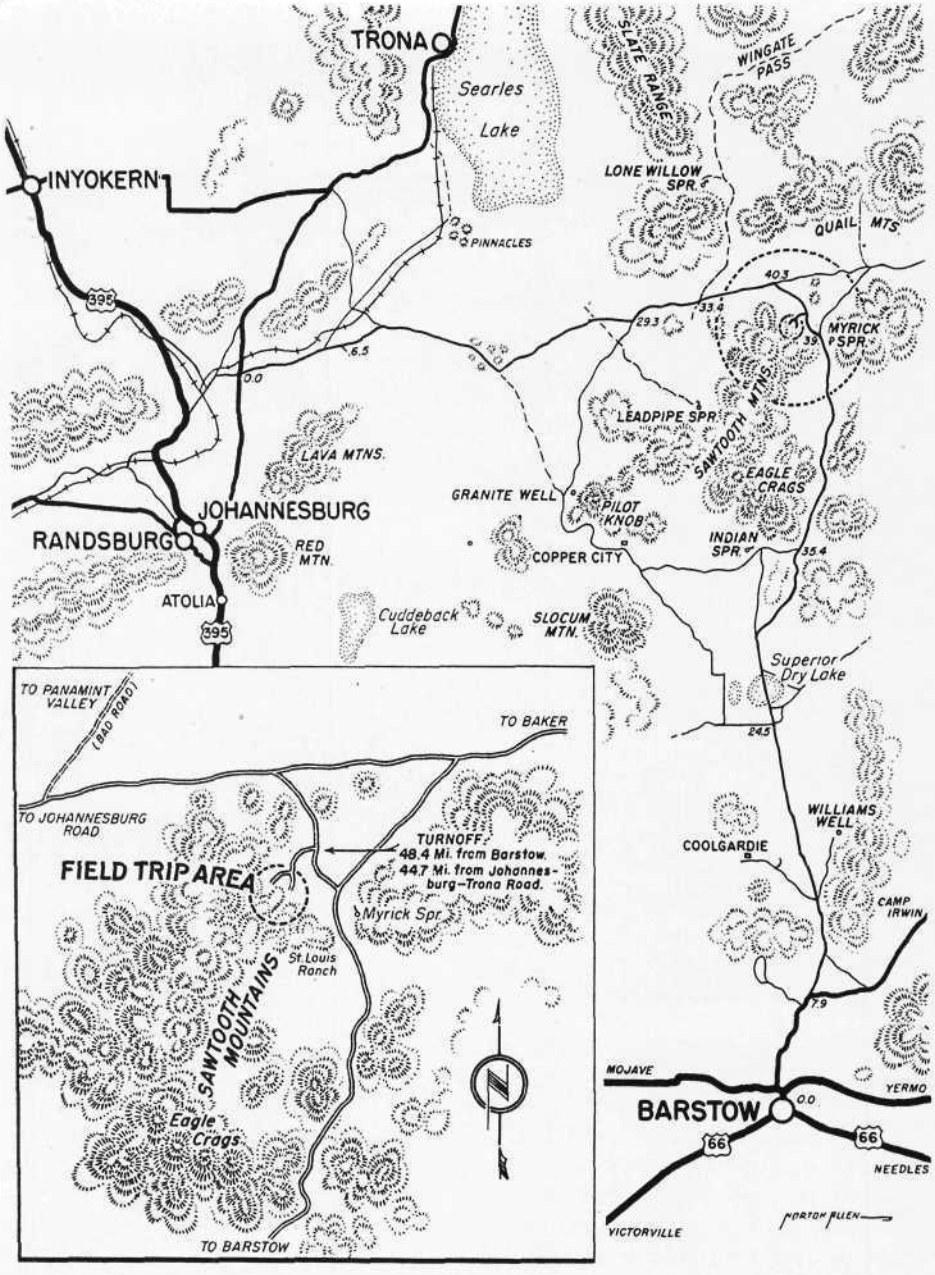
North of the Sawtooths run twin ruts which pass close to Leach and Saratoga springs and link Inyokern and Trona with Shoshone and Baker. The road on the east of the mountains once joined Barstow and Hidden springs—but don't try to follow it to Hidden springs today! On the south, a little used trail crosses from Granite wells past the faint ghost of Copper City and Indian springs, to the Barstow road just mentioned. It is passable for expert drivers and high-clearance cars.

The collector can follow two routes into the Sawtooth-Eagle Crags fields. That from Barstow via Superior dry lake is bladed more than half way, although washboard. The other, leaving pavement where the Johannesburg-Trona highway crosses the Trona railroad, has more dips and twists, but is navigable by a reasonably good driver. This point can be reached by highway from Johannesburg, or—as we came from Inyokern — by haphazard dirt tracks which local inhabitants use as cutoffs between the Trona and Inyokern pavements.

We zeroed the speedometer where the road left the Trona highway, just south of the railroad crossing and headed easterly through the valley north of the Lava mountains. At 6.5 miles, the road passes close to a group of limestone humps—calcareous tufa mounds built by algae when the valley was part of an old lake. They appear to be small editions of the better known Pinnacles south of Trona.

Our road, which had been bladed at some time, washboarded through typical Mojave desert scenery. There were great stark mountains with huge alluvial fans at their canyon mouths, being bled away by erosion until the broad valleys between were half filled with sand and gravel. The desert was barren, when compared with the tree-lined washes of the Colorado desert, but basins and slopes were spotted thickly with rabbit brush, Ephedra, desert holly, galleta grass and cholla cactus, and the ever-present creosote.

We twisted up through a series of sandy hills, then down again and after a straight run across wind-whipped



flats, edged into the Granite wells road, 29.3 miles from pavement. Northeast of the junction, 1.1 miles, there is ample evidence that this was the old trail of the 20-mule teams. To the right of the present route, a deeply rutted cut has been gouged down through a four-foot bank of caliche-like rock. When we examined the cut more closely, we found deep grooves in the side walls, where the wagon hubs had dragged.

Most normal humans seem to have a curiosity about the historical past—a desire for tangible evidence of other times. This trait is called souvenir hunting, pot hunting or, if bolstered by sufficient scientific training and approval, archeological, anthropological and historical research. We hunted souvenirs, scattering among the bushes and along the ruts. Then Slim, who is an enthusiastic man, whooped. He probably would not have yelled as loudly if a rattler had embraced him.

"My gosh, it's a quarter," he shouted. "I've found a quarter!" And he had — a blackened disc of silver with the date 1905. Probably some driver or swamper, urging the mules up this short pitch, dropped the coin from his pocket. He must have been irked when he arrived in Mojave and set out to cut the alkali dust from his throat. A quarter was worth something in those days. But I am certain that his sorrow in losing the coin could not possibly have been as intense as Slim's elation in finding it.

After uncovering half a mule shoe, some square nails and part of a wagon sideboard, we went on. The road was narrow, cut by small cross washes as it rounded a long brown butte. As we looked across the Sawtooths, it appeared that storm clouds had settled on the exact spot for which we were heading. Around the butte, the track swung more to the east, heading toward the end of a long, flat-topped lava tongue licking out from the main mountain mass. The route we would follow lay in the valley beyond the ridge.

We reached one of the Mojave's most isolated cross-roads at 33.4 miles, where battered and repaired Southern California Automobile club signs tell the traveler he is a long way from anywhere. Inyokern is 52 miles distant, Randsburg 40, Barstow 58, Mojave 71, Shoshone 79, Ballarat 39. It is not a place to remember you forgot to check your gas. The Death Valley borax wagons and trailers came down the Ballarat road to this point after pulling up through Wingate pass on a grade which is marked "Downhill Only" for modern 100-horsepower motors.

Continuing east on the Shoshone road, we rounded the dark ridge and entered the slope of a big valley opening from the south. At 40.3 miles we left the road we had been following and swung right.

There had been travel since the last rain, and the tracks in the wash could be followed easily. The road was rough but passable. Colorful outcrops of the Sawtooths, to the right, invited the rockhound. But tentative investigation on previous trips indicated that, while they contain agate and chalcedony, collecting stone doesn't crop out in the quality and quantity found farther south. Real footwork, however, might prove that conclusion wrong.

Beavertail cactus, *Eriogonum inflatum* — the desert trumpet — and evil-smelling bladderpod were scattered among the creosote and rabbit brush along the wash. At 44.7 miles we passed to the left of the low, bright green outcrop which marks the turn-off to the regular collecting fields in the area. Slim and Sylvia, in the car ahead, were searching for landmarks and at 46 miles, they bolted off the road like a dog after a rabbit, then pulled up short.

Slim, wrapped heavily against the wind, piled out of the pickup. "This is the wash," he declared. "We'd better have chow, then you folks park your car and ride with us." We ate in the cars. The wind was bitingly cold, and while driving up the wash we had been bombarded with spats of hail. But the sky was clearing and likelihood of rain—or snow—was less immediate.

To drive with Slim Winslow up a desert wash is an experience not to be

undertaken lightly nor forgotten soon. At first we followed the tracks of a jeep which had poked its investigating nose between many bushes. As Slim sees it, a jeep track is a road. And when he reaches the point where the jeep turned back, Slim wonders why it didn't try *that* route—and off he goes.

When we finally stopped, Sylvia pointed out the tiny monument she had built, beside us at the edge of the wash.

Every rockhound has his own idea of the spots where the best specimens will be found. When a group reaches its destination, the result is something like water dropped in hot grease—splatters fly in every direction. Soon we were investigating wash, flat, canyon and hill. The wind rushed across the ridges and through the gullies. There was ice enough in its breath to chill most enthusiasms — but rockhounds belong to a tough breed.

As we hunted through the afternoon we found many pieces and shades of blue to be licked appreciatively—even if the tongue showed a tendency to stick to the cold rock—and tucked safely away. But none of them approached the beauty of the prize Sylvia had discovered. There was much light agate and chalcedony scattered about, some moss jasper and sagenite. And there always was another hill, another ridge to look beyond.

With darkness approaching, the need for a protected camping place became paramount. Of course it is impossible to get away from a desert wind which blows successively from all points of the compass, then straight down. But the washes where we were hunting were too open. If we backtracked, we could follow a rockhound road back into deeper canyons. So we drove back down to the green outcropping, around it, and up the wash there. A mile farther, keeping left, Sylvia found a spot in a narrow cut between two hills and facing a third. Camp was made in the gathering dusk.

Sylvia Winslow takes time out from rock collecting to make an oil sketch of the Eagle Crags.

The Winslows have equipped their car to take some of the roughness out of overnight camps. One of the best features is a large cabinet with compartments which contain gasoline stove, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, and food. The front of the cabinet drops down on the truck tailboard to form a table. The stove can be used right in its compartment, lined with asbestos. And when supper was ready, we gathered around the table on bench and seats made from boards and 5-gallon army water and gas cans. After meals, the front can be snapped into position, the "kitchen" lifted out, and the Winslows sleep in the pickup bed on air mattresses inflated with an engine tire pump.

One thing I miss in a Mojave camp—the ironwood whose dead logs make such fine pungent fires for campers on the deserts of the Colorado river. Such a long-burning fire would have been a great treasure that night. But by collecting dead branches of creosote from plants on the surrounding hills we soon had our fire going. The creosote makes hot, brief flames. But we built the fire against a sheer cliff where we received full value from reflected warmth and heated rocks. So we warmed up and talked desert and rocks, while the never-ceasing wind made the flames roar up the cliff and we warmed one side after another, rotating after the fashion of chickens on roasting spits.

It took long to remove the chill of the afternoon's collecting. If someone had forced us to hunt rocks in that freezing wind, to dig specimens with cold fingers, we would have felt mightily abused. Instead, we were elated and healthily tired. Some people who are not infected with Virus R, watching collectors arrive home exhausted

and dirty with rock sacks over shoulders, pockets pouched like packrat cheeks, and a few "special finds" clutched in grimy fists, flatly declare that we are crazy.

Well, insanity is relative, meaning different things to different people. But if rock collectors are insane, it is a type of lunacy which the world could use in quantity. Most intelligent people in this uncertain mechanized age, falsely called civilized, actually are displaced persons. In what may their trust be placed? How can they build toward a future which will be safe against the ravaging demons of unrest riding the world? They turn to the hills which seem eternal. They turn to the desert where an outer solitude and timelessness can bring peace and perspective to minds in turmoil.

And too many of our people—no matter what their job or profession—actually are doing piece work. They are units in a great pattern. No matter how important — even vital — their work there is within it no sense of creation and completion. But in rock collecting, shaping, polishing—almost all the important factors of our species inheritance which have been straightjacketed by modern life are given release and satisfaction. There is the spirit of adventure—of the hunt—of discovery. Most important, there is the taking of a rough, waste piece of rock and of working with it until the gemstone—an expression of the personality of its creator through choice of material, shape and treatment — is complete.

Many modern men and women find more satisfaction in that than they do in the most complicated efforts of their professions, because they, individually, have accomplished something real and tangible and permanent. And in directly consorting with Nature in her most savage and sometimes disagreeable moods, the physical body is toughened, the mental fiber strengthened for a return engagement with the daily problems of life.

And that is why it is vitally important that areas remain open where we can grunt and sweat and become acquainted with our inner selves—and where we can have the personal satisfaction of finding and creating.

When we had exhausted the firewood possibilities of the surrounding hills, we crawled into sleeping bags. The wind had swept the sky clear. The stars shone with an intense, cold brilliance in the metallic blackness of the night. The wind continued, rocking the car with uneven pulsations.

When morning came there was frost on the windshield and thick ice on the water bucket. And the wind was blowing. But a breakfast of bacon and eggs and hot coffee, and a brief warming period by another greasewood fire put us in the rock hunting spirit.

The Eagle Crags and Sawtooth mountains seem to be made up of almost every variety of rock formation. There are basaltic lavas, tuffs, rhyolites, granites and apparently some sedimentaries. There is much volcanic material which tentatively has been assigned to the Tertiary period and some later flows. And all throughout the area around camp where we searched that day, we found material of interest to the lapidary. There was red and brown moss jasper—much of it of fine cutting grade. There were agates — shading from white to blue, from tiny nodules the size of a pea to large chunks. There was much white chalcedony in seams and weathered pieces. We found, in place, seams and chunks of agate surrounded by red, yellow and green moss. In the volcanic ash that crops out in the canyons were a few large nodules, and geodes with crystal centers. There is some sagenite and bits of plume. Calcite seams and nodules and inclusions we found in many spots.

What a country for rockhounds this Eagle Crags-Lead Pipe Springs-Brown mountain area must have been 30 years ago when it was the heart of Shady Myrick's domain. Shady was a prospector. Only, here, instead of grubbing for gold and silver he hunted rocks. He had "gem mines" as he called them, and brought out loads of myrickite, named for him, and blue and golden chalcedony. Shady, one of the pioneer rock lovers, has been dead a long time and hundreds of collectors have marched and counter-marched across these eroded canyons. But still there is much beautiful material waiting for those who, like Shady Myrick, love to seek. But it is a wild and lonely country, one wash looking much like another. With camp and car usually hidden in some canyon, it is advisable for the rock hunter to have himself and his camp well-located at all times. It is absurdly easy to become lost.

ROAD LOG

From Johannesburg, Trona Highway

00.0 Dirt road crosses Johannesburg-Trona highway, just south of Trona railroad crossing. Head easterly on dirt road, toward Leach springs. Turnoff is about 10 miles from Johannesburg, 19 miles from Inyokern.
5.5 Road Y, keep right.
6.5 Road branch right to miniature pinnacles, similar to those in Trona area.
15.4 Road branch right. Keep left, on main road.
17.0 Road branch right. Keep left, on main road.
27.3 Road crosses, marked to Lead Pipe springs. Keep ahead, left.
29.3 Join Granite wells road. Keep left.
30.2 Road Y. Keep left.
30.4 Deep ruts just right of road, mark route of old 20-mule teams from Death Valley to Mojave.
31.2 Road Y. Keep right.
33.4 Road cross. Keep ahead toward Leach spring. Left branch is to Lone Willow, Ballarat, right branch toward Lead Pipe.
38.3 Road right, marked Rainbow springs. Keep ahead.
40.2 Poor trail right. Keep ahead.
40.3 Take road branch up wash right, SE, leaving Leach spring-Shoshone road for Barstow road (unmarked).
44.7 Take branch road, right, from Barstow road. Follow rockhound road up small wash, keeping to right of green outcrop. Barstow road goes to left of outcrop.
44.9 Road Y. Either branch deadends shortly. We kept left to
45.7 Camp in narrow wash.

From Barstow

00.0 Barstow. Cross river bridge to hill with water tower.
00.8 Turn left on Mojave road.
1.4 Mojave road branches left. Keep ahead on paved Camp Irwin road.
7.9 Leave pavement for dirt road, left to Superior lake (N).
13.8 Williams Well road, right. Keep ahead on main bladed road.
13.9 Coolgardie road, left. Keep ahead on main road.
20.8 Branch right. Keep ahead.
24.5 VX ranch cross road. Keep ahead.
25.3 Road angles right. Keep ahead, unless Superior lake is muddy.
26.3 Enter Superior dry lake.
27.6 Leave northern edge of Superior dry lake.
27.9 Road Y right, then left. Keep ahead on main bladed road.
28.8 Road Y left, keep ahead on main road.
31.1 Cross road. Keep ahead, north.
35.4 Indian Springs road, left. Keep ahead, main road.
39.0 Branch right, keep left. St. Louis ranch may be seen toward Eagle Crags, left.
39.4 Branch right. Keep left on main road (N).
44.7 Over summit, dropping into wash in collecting area.
48.4 Turn left off main road, rounding bright green outcropping.
48.6 Road Y, either will lead to rock camps, EOR.

We lingered as late as we dared on the slopes of the Sawtooths. Wind, cold and all, the area was fascinating. But finally we had to leave. Lucile and I headed for Barstow, climbing through passes where snow still lay on the ground, passing almost under the white wing of the Crags, and slithering across the almost-not-dry Superior dry lake. Slim and Sylvia turned back the way we had come, to the Little Gallery at Bodfish.

And just before we parted, Slim looked at his car's bent tie rod and burst out: "If I had a million dollars!" I knew what was coming. He always talked about that million. So did Sylvia. Why did they want it? Why, to build the ideal desert-traveling rockhound car. Slim itches to go to those places which so far have baffled his jalopy.

One of the ideas he expounded was a car with detachable tractor treads. It would be a normal car on normal roads. But when the road ended, Slim would change rear wheels, and hang treads over them and around idler wheels. With this tread vehicle Slim would have a sheet armor plate under the engine and working parts. The plate would enable the car to slide over rocks, trees and boulders when the treads were shoving, without damage to any vital organs.

Sylvia wants to get into all those remote places too. But her million-dollar rock buggy will have other features. Included among them will be a sort of station wagon compartment with heat, where the traveler can rest, eat, sleep—and paint—when outside weather is too rugged even for rockhounds.

And, knowing the Winslows, I will not be surprised if, some day, a weird but practical combination of their ideas shoves its way into desert canyons where even burros have not wandered—when they get that million.

• • •

Above—Colorful red and brown moss jasper, chalcedony and agate are found in the country rock of this and other washes of the Sawtooth mountains. Across the valley, right, are the Granite mountains and Myrick springs. Left background, Quail mountains.

Below—Sheltered from the cold Mojave wind in a narrow arroyo, Slim rolls up his sleeping bag while Lucile and Sylvia have a second cup of coffee.

SAN JACINTO TRAMWAY TO BE AMONG WONDERS OF WEST

A picture of the great San Jacinto Winter Park tramway as it will be when completed was outlined by Gordon Bannerman, superintendent of engineering for the American Steel and Wire company, when he arrived at Palm Springs, California, for the start of a resurvey of the tramway route. The project, which will be the world's longest and highest passenger tramway, may well take its place with such modern wonders as the Golden Gate bridge and Grand Coulee and Hoover dams, according to Bannerman. For example, one of the steel towers will have a base area of 117 by 70 feet, with its thick steel legs straddling a giant hump of a Chino canyon ridge and reaching up into the sky for 275 feet.

Six more cable car supports will dot the route, so deeply embedded in concrete that they will form integral parts of the mountain, and there will be terminal point structures at the 2650-foot, 5600-foot and 8500-foot levels. The cables will run into deep wells at the 2650-foot and 8500-foot levels, where machinery will keep them at the proper tension despite natural contraction and expansion. There will be waiting rooms at the top and bottom levels, and spacious auto parks will be constructed at the bottom to take care of the expected throngs who will drive to the take-off point. The margin of safety which will be built into the entire structure will support many times the estimated weight it will carry.

It will take an estimated four months and a crew of 20 men to complete the resurvey of the tramway tower sites, and the sub-surface stratas of the mountain will be probed until solid bedrock is found. Chief Tramway Engineer Elmer Lloyd of American Steel and Wire company will superintend the work and Construction Engineer Ellis Dahlgren, who has just returned from supervising construction of a five-mile freight tramway in Europe, also will be on the job.—*Desert Sun*

The Sand Painters

By NINA PAUL SHUMWAY
Indio, California

The crowd comes surging 'round like thirsty sheep
That bleat and jostle at a waterhole,
To see these scions of a mystic race
Depict in sand the cabala of Soul.

Spellbound by beauty in the strange design,
Awed by the genius of the artist hand
Whence slips the colored sand in finest line,
The crowd may stare—but never understand.

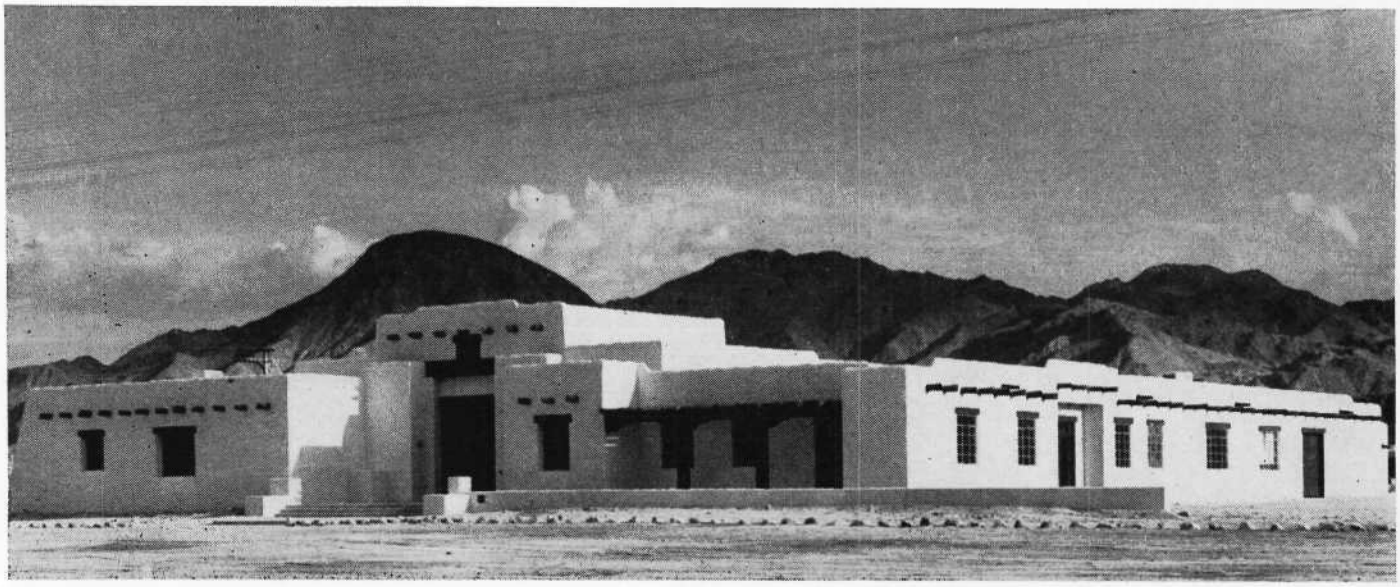
For these are keepers of all tribal lore.
The mysteries a doubting world denies—
Old faiths it lost in striving to be wise—
Dream in the starless midnight of their eyes.

Sages and prophets of the Navajo,
Regal the hand-wrought silver that they wear
Inset with turquoise of most precious blue.
Sleek-bound the jetty luster of their hair.

Grave their bronze faces, dignified and fine;
Strong in the humble pride of freeman's birth;
Remote within the veils of poet-mind
That paints its magic patterns on the earth.

Bequeathed to them the Desert-Mother's gift
Of secret worship phrased in tinted sand
As mesas and mountains invoke their gods
In the multi-hued mazes of Navajo land.

Ah, they themselves are symbolic designs—
Man-forms in her work of transcendent art;
A higher prayer than scrolls her painted cliffs:
Life's deathless impulse in the Desert-heart.



Patterned after the architecture of the desert's ancient pueblo dwellers, this is Desert's new home at Palm Desert.

Desert's First 11 Years . . .

This is the story of Desert Magazine—the story of a little group of desert newspaper people who envisioned a monthly publication which would stress the cultural side of life on the Great American Desert, and who kept their faith through years of financial strain and eventually won commercial success without sacrificing the idealism of their dream.

Photos by Alice M. Hartman, Indio, California

THE story of Desert Magazine begins with Ol' Breezy. A relic of the big-wheeled touring model era, Ol' Breezy had a natural gift for hopping over the rocks and plowing through the sand of unexplored desert terrain. Ol' Breezy's metallic bones have long since gone to the junkyard where aged jallopies eventually find sanctuary, but in the days of her wheezy career she played a very important role in the launching of Desert Magazine.

Ol' Breezy's owner was J. Wilson McKenney. As an apprentice reporter just out of Compton Junior College, he went to work for the daily Chronicle at Calexico, California, in 1932. Wilson spent his weekends roaming the desert in his pet jallopy.

Then, at the suggestion of Randall Henderson, publisher and editor of the Chronicle, McKenney began writing weekly feature stories about his trips for the Monday edition of the newspaper. These desert stories soon became the most popular column in the Chronicle.

"If folks like this desert copy so well, why not give them more of it," reasoned the Chronicle's editor. "Perhaps a whole section of the newspaper could be devoted to the lore of the desert—possibly an entire publication —a magazine."

Thus the idea began to take root. The editor frequently accompanied McKenney on his camping trips Around the campfire at night they dis-

Mail orders

Book shop and service office

cussed the possibilities of a magazine devoted entirely to the history, geography, archeology, natural sciences, personalities and general lore of the desert country, including the Indian tribesmen who play such a colorful role in the Southwest scene.

The editorial possibilities appeared unlimited. But would such a magazine gain enough circulation to attract advertisers? They surveyed the desert field, which they defined as the states of Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and the desert sector of California.

Within these geographical limits the census of 1930 reported a population of 1,086,430. Probably many persons not residing on the desert also would be interested in such a magazine. Potentially, the field seemed adequate.

A dummy copy was prepared. Prospective subscribers were enthusiastic over the idea, advertisers lukewarm.

In the meantime considerable study was given to the selection of a location for the offices and printing plant. It must be on the desert. Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Springs and Las Vegas, Nevada, all were under consideration, and trips were made to Tucson and Phoenix to feel out the local sentiment. The final decision favored El Centro, California.

As practical printers, "Mac" and "R. H." felt that the economy of operating their own printing plant would be essential to the success of the project. Even with that advantage they were sure it would be months, perhaps years, before a new regional magazine of this type would pay its own way.

A profitable commercial printing business would help pay the deficit. So, in 1936, with Tazewell H. Lamb, Bess Stacy and Edna Clements, newspaper associates, as co-investors, Henderson bought the plant of the Elite Printing company at El Centro. Early in 1937, McKenney became an active associate at the Elite, and preparations began for the first issue, to be published in November.

With such mailing lists as were available, announcements were sent out soliciting charter subscriptions. The publishers were gratified when more than 600 persons subscribed in advance of the first printing. The first printing was 7,000 copies. Some of these were put on the newsstands, but most of them were given away as sample copies. Today the Desert Magazine has a standing offer of $5.00 each for those first copies, and a waiting list of people who want them. Some of them have been sold at many times that figure. Even the original dummy copies, 100 of which were printed, have become a prized collector's item.

Where Desert Goes

Following is a breakdown of Desert's paid circulation by states:

California	16374
Arizona	1768
Nevada	1036
New Mexico	748
Colorado	673
Oregon	534
Utah	482
Washington	469
Illinois	433
Texas	295
New York	262
Michigan	236
Idaho	219
Ohio	212
Pennsylvania	156
Montana	140
Kansas	140
Iowa	117
Indiana	100
Massachusetts	95
Missouri	95
Wyoming	89
New Jersey	84
Wisconsin	78
Oklahoma	74
Nebraska	63
Minnesota	54
Connecticut	53
Florida	43
Maryland	38
Virginia	28
Tennessee	27
Maine	26
Arkansas	19
Georgia	18
Kentucky	18
Vermont	18
South Dakota	17
North Carolina	17
Louisiana	15
West Virginia	15
New Hampshire	14
North Dakota	14
Mississippi	13
Alabama	12
South Carolina	7
Rhode Island	5
Delaware	4
Washington, D. C.	44
Foreign	111
	25602
Advertising	18
Complimentary	24
Exchanges	58
	25702
Newsstand Rets. & Resv. Stock	513
	26215

Average Press Run for past 6 months—
26215

Desert's first subscriber was Jasper L. Travers of El Centro. The second and third were Mrs. Argyle McLachlan of Calexico and Paul Cook of Phoenix. Travers has since died, but Mrs. McLachlan and Paul Cook are still on the subscription list along with more than 300 other charter subscribers. John Burk of the Anza hotel in Calexico was the first advertiser to buy space. State Senator Ben Hulse, Caterpillar dealer in Imperial valley at that time, was the most liberal advertiser of the pioneering period, and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Anderson of Coachella valley established and have continued to hold the record as the most liberal donors of gift subscriptions each Christmas season.

The subscription list has grown slowly but constantly, without use of premiums or "college boy" salesmanship. It was the theory of the publishers that such a magazine must succeed on its editorial merit—not on pressure promotion. Where many of the national publications pay as high as 90 percent commission for selling subscriptions and rely on advertising for their profits, Desert has maintained an independence of editorial viewpoint which is possible only when the essential supporting revenue comes from readers. In 1947 Desert's income from circulation was $55,987.10, from advertising $14,852.06. Desert's fine new publishing plant at Palm Desert is a monument to reader interest and loyalty.

Desert Magazine was published at a financial loss for nearly five years. When the profits from the commercial printing business failed to make up the deficit the staff went without salaries, or drew only enough for necessary expenses. When the time came that the business office would not support two families, Wilson McKenney withdrew and returned to the newspaper field. Today Wilson is the publisher of a thriving weekly at Yucaipa, California, but his interest in the magazine he helped found has never waned.

The turning point came early in 1942, nearly five years after the magazine was started. In June that year the books showed a profit for the first time. Two months later, Henderson, who had been an air pilot in World War I and was a member of the reserve, was called to active duty.

During his service of nearly two years in Africa, Desert Magazine was carried on successfully by associates. Bess Stacy assumed the business management, Lucile Harris, now Mrs. Harold O. Weight, took over the editorial responsibility, and Evonne Henderson Riddell, daughter of the publisher, became circulation manager. Under the direction of these associates the magazine continued to gain prestige, circulation and financial stability during the war years.

On duty together for a short period on the African Gold Coast, Randall and his brother, Cliff Henderson, also an officer in the Air Force, discussed plans for the building of a new community somewhere on the desert, with the magazine as the nucleus.

These plans began to materialize in 1945 when Desert's editor on his re-

Circulation

Mailing room

turn from active duty began looking for a suitable location on which to build larger quarters. The staff preferred to set up the new print shop where ample acreage would be available not only to house the offices and mechanical equipment but where homes could be provided for the staff. Also provision was to be made for affiliated activities which included a desert book shop and an arts and crafts center.

The Palm Desert cove at the base of the Santa Rosa mountains overlooking the floor of Coachella valley was selected as the ideal site. Good water was available here, a well-drained bajada with a backdrop of 8,000-foot mountains, a paved highway to bring paper and supplies from the coast, easy access to the main travel arteries of the desert Southwest, and finally, a field where commercial business could be developed to keep the presses busy between magazine runs.

Cliff Henderson formed the Palm Desert corporation and acquired 1500 acres in the cove for community development. The corporation set aside 40 acres for magazine purposes on generous terms. In the meantime the Harry Williams architectural office in Palm Springs had been preparing plans, and a contract was let to the R. P. Shea company of Indio for construction of a building to house offices and printing plant and a seven-unit lodge for members of the staff. The estimated cost was $140,000 for the two buildings.

In 1946 the magazine was incorporated. The capital stock is owned by employes, their families and friends, with a substantial quota of shares held in reserve for future employe investment.

Twenty acres of the site are reserved for Desert Magazine, and building lots are available for employes who desire to erect their own homes. The other half of the 40-acre tract is being reserved for shops and homes for artists and craftsmen who will be invited to participate when plans have been completed for this phase of the project, probably a year from this fall.

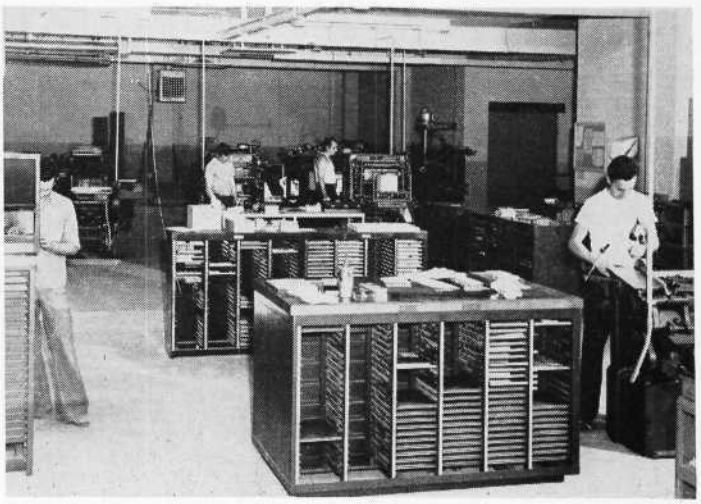
Desert Magazine from the first has refused to accept liquor or other objectionable advertising. When school teachers began writing in that they were using Desert in their Nature classes, tobacco was added to the taboo list. Applicants for advertising space, unless they have established records for integrity, are required to furnish references.

While Desert's reader support has remained loyal through the years, corporate and community advertisers have remained lukewarm. The Union Oil company of California has been a notable exception. Union executives, recognizing the important role Desert is playing in the development of travel in and to the desert country, have been consistent users of space in this magazine.

Practical business men are inclined to be cagey in the face of idealism. The tradition has emerged that senti-

Bindery

Composing and press room



ment is sissy—something that has no place in the competitive struggle for dollars. Cultural projects are all right for philanthropists—but have no place in commerce. Desert Magazine has proved to the satisfaction of its publishers at least, that this is a false concept —that the cultural and the commercial may be made an effective team—that it is not necessary to sacrifice ideals to earn fair profits.

Like most periodicals, Desert Magazine has a well-defined formula for the guidance of its writers. Although its non-desert-dwelling readers now outnumber its desert subscribers, the editors hold fast to the policy that Desert is published primarily for desert people. Manuscripts from tenderfoot writers, no matter how successful they may have been in other fields, often are rejected because they lack the "feel" of the desert. The magazine's staff seeks constantly to go behind the obvious things of the desert and report factual matter which is new and interesting to desert people themselves.

Many well-written essays come to the editorial desk on a wide variety of desert subjects. Without exception they are returned—for the reason that Desert does not use essays. It is the goal always to keep Desert very human. For after all, the most interesting subject on the desert is the people themselves.

Randall Henderson, Editor

Chamber of commerce secretaries often are exasperated by the editors' unwillingness to publish "write-ups" of their communities. Some of them are not far-sighted enough to realize that the publication of such material would soon destroy interest in the magazine, and therefore its usefulness. Desert's mapped travelogs bring tens of thousands of people into the desert country annually. It is the attitude of the publishers that communities which want to make capital of this stimulated travel have the opportunity to do so in the advertising columns.

Most of the material appearing in Desert Magazine comes from free lance writers and photographers. Every day's mail includes from two or three to a dozen manuscripts from writers who believe they have material suitable for this publication. When these articles show promise, Desert's editors devote much time and correspondence to helping the contributor make needed revisions. Desert does not buy fiction (except the Hard Rock Shorty yarns), does not use serial material except on rare occasions, and limits its feature stories to 3,000 words.

The accompanying reprint of the magazine's rejection letter may be of interest to readers as well as to aspiring contributors.

During the 11 years of publication, Desert's staff has acquired a fine source library of material bearing on nearly every phase of non-commercial desert activity. This library has become invaluable for the reason that people all over the world write to this office for information pertaining to the Great American Desert. While these letters most often pertain to road conditions and accommodations for travelers, they also cover almost every conceivable subject. The same mail that brings a letter from a prospector asking about mining restrictions in the national parks, or about a market for his newly discovered gem material, may also include an inquiry from a college professor asking what species of fish are found in the desert waterholes. Desert's staff is supposed to know everything, and thanks to a good library and close contact with travel agencies, is able to answer most of the queries which come in.

According to one survey conducted by the business office, Desert's readers in one year traveled 7,000,000 miles on trips mapped or suggested to them by Desert Magazine.

Thirty-eight percent of the readers are professional people — teachers, artists, lawyers, doctors, engineers. Twenty-five percent are ranch and business executives.

In the first issue in November, 1937, the purpose and ideals which were to govern the editorial policy of Desert Magazine were published under the title "There Are Two Deserts." This editorial is reprinted on the following page—as a reaffirmation of the cultural standards which have and will remain the goal of Desert's staff.

Desert's Rejection Letter

THANK YOU for submitting this material. It has received the careful consideration of our editorial staff, and is being returned to you for the reasons checked below:

Subject is not essentially of the desert.....
Your manuscript lacks the "feel" of the desert.....
We accept only typewritten copy.....
We do not use this type of material.....
We are not in the market for fiction.....
Similar material is on hand or in preparation.....
Similar material has been used previously.....
Illustrations are inadequate.....
Not sufficient human or personal interest.....
Copy is too general; lacks particularization.....
Our limit for features of this type is.....words
We are oversupplied with poetry at present.....
This is not poetry, it is merely rhyme.....
Our poetry limit is 24 lines.....
We use only contributed poetry.....
No return postage was enclosed. We will hold the material subject to your instructions.....

Our editorial staff is always glad to consider material within the desert field. However, Desert Magazine has a well-defined editorial formula and it will often save time and disappointment if contributors before sending in manuscripts will study the magazine to determine its style and field.

Feature material should have a strong personal, human-interest slant. Text should be built around a single personality, episode or geographical location. Particularize. Desert Magazine is published for desert people who are already familiar with the obvious things of the desert country. Avoid generalities. We prefer copy written from the viewpoint of participant rather than onlooker.

All manuscripts, to be considered, must be accompanied by clear sharp photographs, strong in light and dark contrasts, on glossy paper 5x7 or larger.

Payment for feature material is one cent a word and up. For photographs we pay $1.00 to $3.00 each.

There Are Two Deserts. . .

(Reprinted from the first issue of Desert Magazine Nov. 1937.)

ONE IS A GRIM desolate wasteland. It is the home of venomous reptiles and stinging insects, of vicious thorn-covered plants and trees, and of unbearable heat. This is the desert seen by the stranger speeding along the highway, impatient to be out of "this damnable country." It is the desert visualized by those children of luxury to whom any environment is unbearable which does not provide all of the comforts and services of a pampering civilization. It is a concept fostered by fiction writers who dramatize the tragedies of the desert for the profit it will bring them.

But the stranger and the uninitiated see only the mask. The other Desert—the real Desert—is not for the eyes of the superficial observer, or the fearful soul of the cynic. It is a land, the character of which is hidden except to those who come with friendliness and understanding. To these the Desert offers rare gifts: health-giving sunshine—a sky that is studded with diamonds—a breeze that bears no poison—a landscape of pastel colors such as no artist can duplicate—thorn-covered plants which during countless ages have clung tenaciously to life through heat and drought and wind and the depredations of thirsty animals, and yet each season send forth blossoms of exquisite coloring as a symbol of courage that has triumphed over terrifying obstacles.

To those who come to the Desert with friendliness, it gives friendship; to those who come with courage, it gives new strength of character. Those seeking relaxation find release from the world of man-made troubles. For those seeking beauty, the Desert offers nature's rarest artistry. This is the Desert that men and women learn to love.

Nearly every creed and industry and locality has its journal—except the Desert. Here, within the boundaries of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah resides a great family of human beings—the highest type of American citizenship—with a common heritage of environment and interest and opportunity, yet residing for the most part in regions that are remote from the so-called cultural centers.

This is the last great frontier of the United States. It will be the purpose of the Desert Magazine to entertain and serve the people whom desire or circumstance has brought to this Desert frontier. But also, the magazine will carry as accurately as possible in word and picture, the spirit of the real Desert to those countless men and women who have been intrigued by the charm of the desert, but whose homes are elsewhere.

. . . one is grim, desolate

• • •

This is to be a friendly, personal magazine, written for the people of the Desert and their friends—and insofar as possible, by Desert people. Preference will be given to those writers and artists—yes, and poets—whose inspiration comes from close association with the scented greasewood, the shifting sand dunes, the coloring of Desert landscapes, from precipitous canyons and gorgeous sunsets.

The Desert has its own traditions—art—literature—industry and commerce. It will be the purpose of the Desert Magazine to crystallize and preserve these phases of Desert life as a culture distinctive of arid but virile America. We would give character and personality to the pursuits of Desert peoples—create a keener consciousness of the heritage which is theirs—bring them a little closer together in a bond of pride in their Desert homes, and perhaps break down in some measure the prejudice against the Desert which is born of misunderstanding and fear.

It is an idealistic goal, to be sure, but without vision the Desert would still be a forbidding wasteland—uninhabited and shunned. The staff of the Desert Magazine has undertaken its task with the same unbounded confidence which has brought a million people to a land which once was regarded as unfit for human habitation.

We want to give to the folks who live on the Desert—and to those who are interested in the Desert—something that will make their lives a little happier and a little finer—something worthwhile. In the accomplishment of this purpose we ask for the cooperation and help of all friends of the Desert everywhere. THE STAFF.

. . . one is fascinating, mysterious

Photo by Stephen Willard

Healing Berries . . .

By MARY BEAL

FROM an aromatic wine to a remedy for a host of ailments; from a gourmet salad-dressing ingredient to angling rods and flutes, the Elder has served generations in most of the temperate regions of our country. In the Old World too it was highly regarded. In early England it was considered a storehouse of medicine for the country practitioner, both for internal ailments and wounds. Some of the old herbals recommended the flowers for remedies, although the fusions of the leaves and bark also were in favor. The concoctions were taken for liver and intestinal complaints, as a blood purifier, astringent and a mild anodyne. The juice of the berries, beaten up with lard or thick cream made an excellent ointment for burns and scalds. The fine purple juice of the sweetish, acidulous berries also was "very highly esteemed for making Elder wine, a powerful, warming, and enlivening article for family use." Elderflower water was a choice toilet preparation, made from the pickled flowers and layers of common salt.

In our country we find much the same usage of the Elder. Housewives consider the berries excellent for pies, preserves and jellies, and Elderberry wine is brewed by country folk for its tonic properties. Indians found many uses for all parts of it—food, antiseptic washes, remedies for internal ailments, even to check hemorrhage of the lungs. Charles Francis Saunders in his *Western Wild Flowers and Their Stories* gives an interesting account of the making of flutes from Elder stems by the California Indians, and of other Indian lore concerning the Elder.

If you'd like a delectable salad vinegar, try adding a generous handful of ripe Elderberries to a bottle of white vinegar. But you must gather your berries as soon as they are ripe, or only nearly so, if you expect to get ahead of the birds. Once the berries are eatable, birds can strip the bushes almost in a twinkling. Other animals too relish the berries but it's the birds that really harvest the crop. Among other benefits conferred by the Elder is the protection of delicate plants from caterpillars with a decoction made from the leaves, as reported by some gardeners.

Not least in usefulness is the wood, white, fine and exceedingly tough and hard, valued for angling rods, tops, skewers and pegs, and especially prized by the maker of mathematical instruments.

The common name Elder, or Elderberry, is universal but in botanical parlance the genus is classed as Sambucus and is a member of the small Honeysuckle family. The common western Elder that ranges from British Columbia to Mexico and Lower California, and eastward to the Rockies, also has established itself in the deserts of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and western Texas, either the species or its varieties. Naturally a stream lover, or of other moist situations, on the desert it makes itself at home along watercourses and drainage slopes and canyons, usually in foothill or mountain areas, up to several thousand feet elevation. Frequently it is called Blue Elderberry, which interprets the scientific name,

Sambucus coerulea

You may know this Elder as a small tree, for it often develops that form and stature, varying from a large many-stemmed shrub 8 to 12 feet high to a tree 20 to 30 feet in height, the trunk a foot or more in diameter. The larger branches are dark and finely furrowed, the others smooth and hairless and very pithy. The pale-green pinnate leaves have 5 to 9 ovate to oblong-lanceolate leaflets, hairless or nearly so, sharply saw-tooth, with pointed tips, usually rounded at the base and lopsided. The numerous creamy-white flowers are small but grow in ornamental, flat-topped clusters, that are like decorative mats of rich lace, 2 to 6 or 8 inches across, the individual corollas deeply 5-lobed. Flowers may be found from May to August according to the altitude. The fruit is a small berry-like drupe, bluish black but veiled with a dense whitish bloom which gives a cerulean blue effect.

The common Blue Elderberry, Sambucus coerulea, appears in many guises — from medicine to table delicacy. Beal photo.

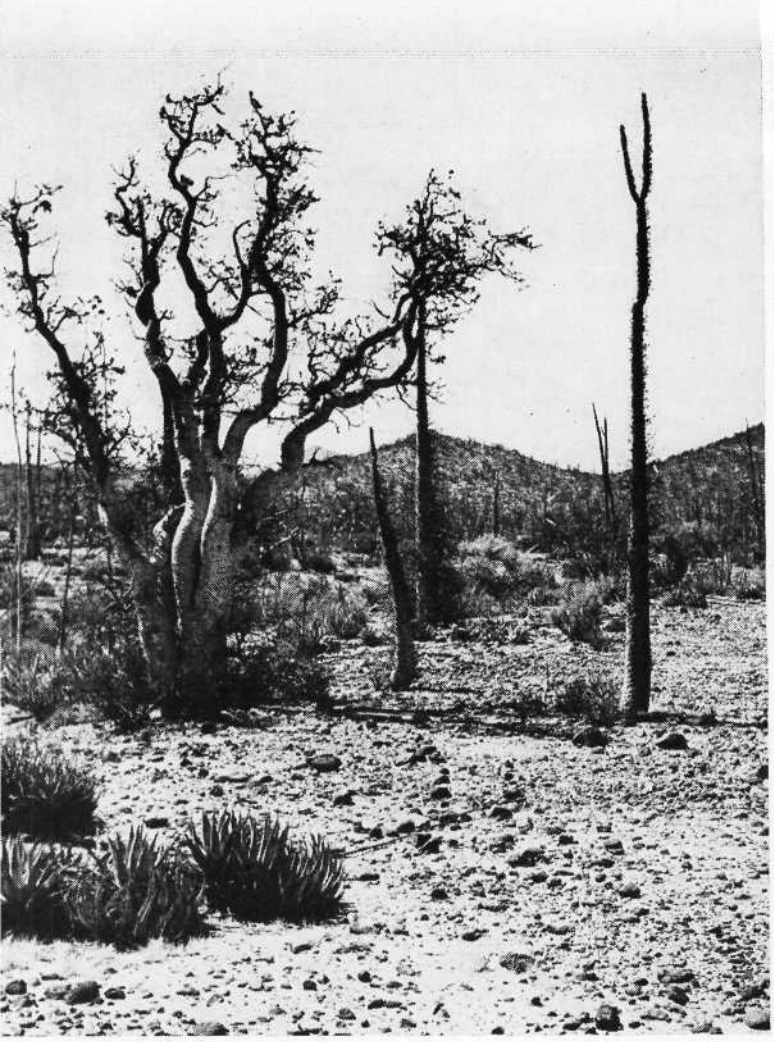
The Blue Elderberry displays differences that have led to the segregation of a few varieties, which some of the leading botanists class as separate species. Here they are listed as varieties, for simplification.

1. Variety arizonica, which has leaves with only 3 to 5 leaflets, smaller flower clusters and smaller fruits. It often takes a round-topped tree form, with stout spreading branches.

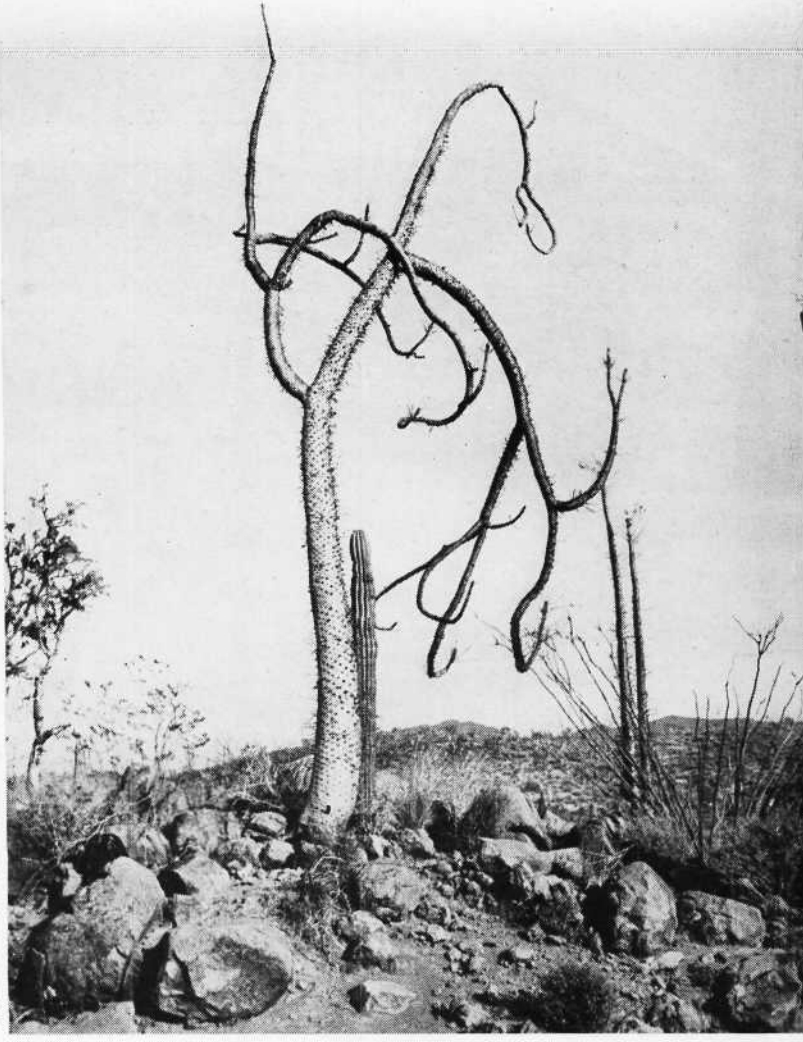
2. Variety velutina, with branchlets and underside of the thick leathery leaves finely hairy, often densely so, especially the branchlets, the flowers yellowish, in flat clusters 4 to 16 inches broad.

3. Variety mexicana, with leaves persistent, 3 to 5 leathery leaflets, usually ovate to elliptical, sometimes sparsely hairy, the "bloom" on the berries less dense than that of the species. Usually a fair-sized tree, up to 35 feet tall, the trunk sometimes 2 feet in diameter. Often planted as an ornamental. This variety (or species) replaces the variety (or species) arizonica in some botanical works. Known as Desert Elderberry and Mexican Elder.

4. Variety neomexicana, New Mexico Elder, has narrower leaflets, lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, tapering to a long point, the flowers in more delicately lacy, very open clusters. It grows in Arizona as well as New Mexico.



A Cirio forest grows about another strange plant inhabitant of the desert, the Elephant tree.



No two Cirios are alike. This queer contortionist apparently lost all sense of direction.

Freak Tree of the Peninsula

By LEWIS W. WALKER

You might doubt that there is a "Boogum" tree, even after you have read its strange story. But Lewis W. Walker brought back photographs to prove the existence in Lower California of one of the desert's most peculiar plants, which starts life as a ball and ends it as a bleached yellow skeleton.

INLAND from the town of Rosario and for 300 miles southward in Baja California, the traveler encounters one of the desert's oddest growths—the Cirio or Boogum tree. Even when growing normally, its single trunk towering 50 feet into the air, it is a weird sight. But in every grove of these trees there are a few which sprawl unbelievably, apparently having lost all sense of direction. And though these queer plant contortionists all follow one of several general patterns, it is practically impossible to find any two alike.

The first few years of a Cirio's life are spent as a ball about the size of a small coconut. It is almost as wide as it is high, and from the grey bark numerous twigs protrude, each armed with rigid spines. These twiglike branches resemble the ocotillo, the Cirio's closest relative, but otherwise all visible signs of relationship have been obliterated by the evolution of time. This peculiar ball with armored branches gradually elongates and tapers to a point at the top.

The base is not idle during this vertical growth. It also spreads until the whole plant, on reaching a yard in height, resembles an upside-down ice cream cone.

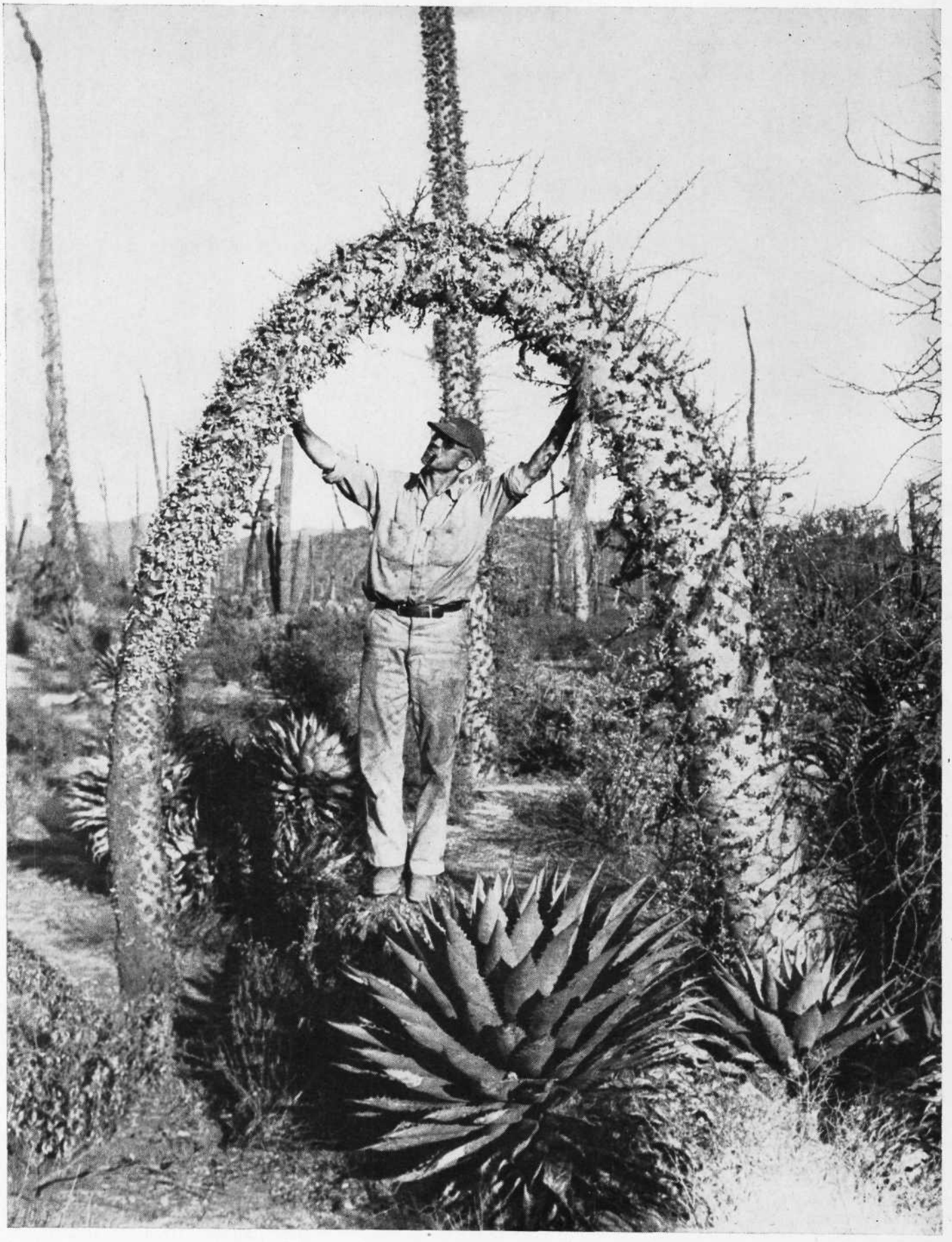
Just below the surface horizontal roots radiate in all directions, and by the time the Cirios attain their 50-foot height the root pattern is practically solid beneath the soil. The effect of the underground root system may be seen plainly. The ground for many yards on all sides of the scattered groups is bare in comparison with areas where Cirios are not growing.

When the Cirio dies, it skeletonizes like a giant cholla. The long straight shafts bleach to a yellow-white, when the bark and the inside pulp has rotted away, revealing a circular wooden wall pock-marked with thousands of small holes.

Some of these skeletons have been sawed into sections and hung on wires by quarry workers at the onyx mine at El Marmol. When filled with spagnum moss and kept damp they make beautiful rustic garden baskets which, if more plentiful, would be in popular demand here in the States.

Occasionally even the living trees develop hollow centers, and these are quickly preempted by wild honey bees. Some of these hollows have been found with over 100 pounds of honey stored within. Several residents of Punta Prieta, the heart of the Cirio country, make their entire livelihood by robbing "Boogum" hives.

A few areas in the 300 mile belt where the Cirio is found have become infested with a picturesque parasitic lichen, similar to Spanish moss. In these localized areas the forests are being ravaged by slow death, but new plants are in constant view as though ready to take the place of those now blighted and doomed.



The Cirio of Baja California is a relative of the Ocotillo, and the tiny branchlets are somewhat similar—but there all resemblance ends.

Pictures of the Month . . .

Navajo Weaver

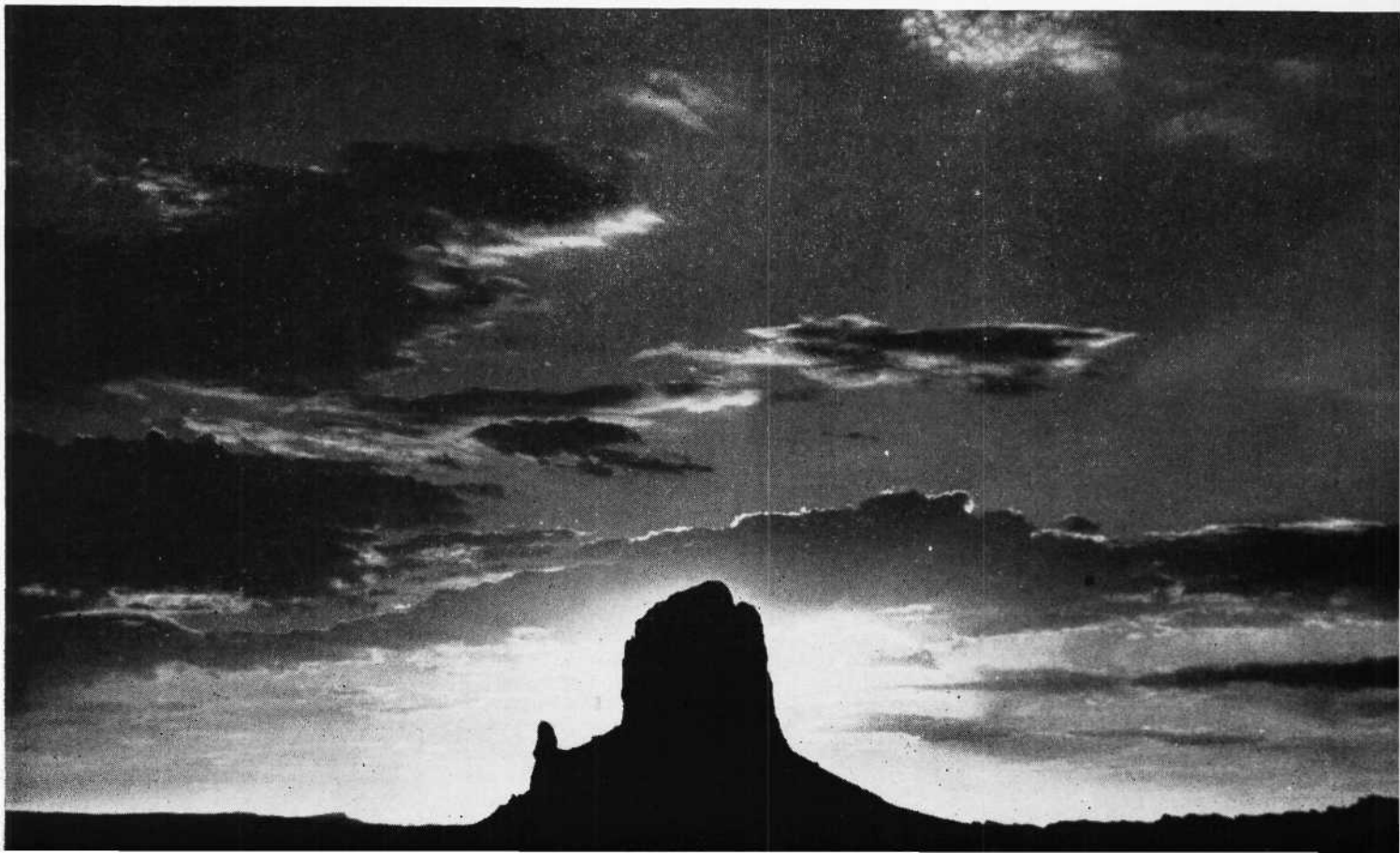
Lewis M. Jones of Bisbee, Arizona, took first place in the September photo contest with the portrait (right) of an 88-year-old weaver of Lupton, Arizona. The picture was taken in August, 1948, with an Eastman post card camera, 1/25 at f.22.

Desert Sunrise

Ben Pope of Dinuba, California, rose at four in the morning and drove until the sun was behind the butte to shoot the sunrise picture (below) which was second place winner. The photo was made about five miles from Kayenta, Arizona, with a Medalist camera, 1 sec. at f.11, Plus X film, yellow filter.

Special Merit

"Mesa Verde" by Willard Luce, Provo, Utah.



LETTERS . . .

Gems of the Juarez Mountains . . .

Whittier, California

Dear Desert:

In a recent issue of Desert, Randall Henderson described his visit to the old mile-high placer mining district in the Juarez mountains in Lower California, referring to the old mining camp, *La Milla*.

In 1906 a couple of gold miners from *La Milla* came to Los Angeles to sell their gold and buy supplies. They brought with them a bag of transparent stones which had lodged behind the riffles in their sluice box. I happened to be the first lapidary they contacted, and recognizing the stones as zircons of a color generally known as hyacinth, I bought the lot. They cut into the brilliant stones for which zircons are noted.

Those were still horse and buggy days. I could not leave my business and the miners never returned. I did not get any definite location information as I had no thought of trekking that distance to hunt zircon. Now, with speedy autos and good roads, a few weeks vacation in high mountain country might be more than a mere dream.

The striking feature of the rough material was that there was no complete crystal in the lot. While of nodule shape, all edges were sharp, as though freshly broken. Although washed from gravel, there was not a single water worn surface in the lot. They gave every appearance of having been crushed.

The best clue to the exact location would be to look for old mine workings where running water permitted the use of a sluice box. Also, it would be worth while to run stream gravel through a sluice box. Who knows—one may find both gold and zircon.

E. C. KNOPF

• • •

Billy the Kid's Gang . . .

Venice, California

Dear Desert:

It is possible that a find I made while doing some research in old New Mexican newspapers may be of interest in connection with the recent item that Billy the Kid may still be alive. According to the Santa Fe Review, January 11, 1884, Governor Sheldon issued a proclamation offering $500 apiece, dead or alive, for members of Billy the Kid's gang, who had just ridden over from Mexico and shot up the border town of Seven Rivers in Lincoln—now Eddy—county. The biographies of Billy have it that after his death the gang dispersed and settled down to law-abiding lives. This account seems to dispose of that theory. It may be, therefore, that Billy escaped into Mexico with his gang intact and carried on there for several years before he finally "met the girl" and settled down.

HENRY WINFRED SPLITTER

Inspiration

By TANYA SOUTH

Little thoughts with purpose great,
Glorious your rising fate!
Push the shining stars aside,
Part the gates of heaven wide.
You are young and strong and free.
Heights above immensity
Wait with virgin space to greet
Your swift soaring, winged feet.

Rattlesnake Behavior . . .

Boise City, Oklahoma

Dear Desert:

Your rattlesnake quiz of some months back, on which I made 95 per cent, brings to mind the strange behavior of a rattler I observed several years past. During the 68 years that I have lived on the Great Plains at the foot of the Rocky mountains, I have studied the behavior of thousands of prairie, timber, velvet tail and prairie diamond back rattlesnakes and this was the only one of which I have personal knowledge which struck without warning.

On a beautiful sunny afternoon in late November my grandson and I were looking for Indian flint arrowheads along Carrumpa creek in northeast New Mexico. While walking across a barren spot of sand and gravel with my attention drawn to my left, I heard the gravel rattle just to my right. Although I was wearing heavy, 18-inch shoes which would have protected me, I jumped through instinct from many years on the plains. The snake, a medium-sized prairie diamond about 2½ feet long, must have struck blind as he hit the ground six or eight inches to the side of my footprint.

Many times, while a boy, I would disturb the hog-nosed snake until it would spread its head and upper portion of its body to two or three times natural width. Now the rattlesnake proceeded to do this, spreading head and neck and a few inches of the upper portion of his body to apparently 2½ inches broad and almost as thin as cardboard. Never having seen a rattler behave that way before, I shouted to my grandson to bring the camera. But the rattler seemed to feel the show was over and assumed his natural form and defensive attitude and no amount of prodding could lure him into this performance again. I wonder if any of Desert's readers have seen any other rattlesnake so perform?

WM. E. BAKER

• • •

Los Alamos Is a Credit . . .

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Desert:

In answer to the letter by Kathryn Provencher, in September Desert, the Los Alamos project has caused very little disruption to the Santa Fe region. The *New Yorker* article is definitely misleading on this point. The charming, narrow, crooked streets of Santa Fe do bear increased traffic. They had been overcrowded in the past, but now the county commissioners have begun a by-pass road, which will benefit Santa Fe a great deal and will solve many traffic problems without sacrificing the charm of the city.

The Pueblo Indians have been changed by this new source of local income. Many have been able to make substantial improvements to their homes, and thus have improved community health. Their dignity is not lost through working with their hands, which is always a respectable way of earning a living. They are wonderful neighbors and friends to us, who work with them. The women who work as maids in Los Alamos are not conventional maids. They are fellow housekeepers with their employers. They are our hosts when we see Indian dances; they are guests at many of our recreational functions. One of our architects and several engineers are local Pueblo men. The laborers and others have lost no importance in their homes.

Mr. Tafoya, who wore the cook's hat and apron Kathryn Provencher mentioned, is still an important man at Santa Clara. He is also a popular man at Los Alamos. He has made many friends here for his people. The Indian arts of pottery have not suffered. Many of us have learned more of the Indian arts through close association. All of us are gaining a little social stature through these close associations of Anglo, Indian and Spanish. Recently I read a social study of San Ildefonso, a book I would have enjoyed in my younger "Indian study" days. I now find it rather distasteful, as it is a discussion and criticism of the lives of my friends.

Being close to Bandelier, Puye ruins, the Valle Grande and other little known but worthwhile places of pleasant recreation, we have lost some of our natural laziness and have been led into a healthier and more sensible way of living. Probably we strangers to New Mexico owe more than others to the man who decided upon this location, but all of us are grateful to him.

New Mexico is not worrying about its new city. It is a credit to the state and to the organizations that are building it.

KELLY CHODA

• • •

Meteorite Pictographs? . . .

Pasadena, California

Dear Desert:

The June-July issue of *Popular Astronomy* contains an article calling attention to the possible meteoric interpretation of certain pictographs. It occurred to me that many readers of Desert may have taken pictures of Indian pictographs and petroglyphs and that a study of them might reveal additional examples of meteors. I would appreciate the opportunity of examining prints of any pictures of that nature your readers might have, and I will return them if desired. Even if none of the pictographs look like meteors, a negative result is something. My address is 99 S. Raymond, Pasadena, California.

JOHN DAVIS BUDDHUE

• • •

Hotcake Artist . . .

Longmont, Colorado

Dear Mr. Henderson:

Yes, as you say, flipping hotcakes "takes courage, faith, good timing and perfect rhythm." One really becomes an expert when he can throw a hotcake up the fireplace, then run outside and catch it in the skillet. If you don't believe it, just try it some time. You say it cannot be done? Want to bet? But when you try it, don't trip over the doorsill.

RALPH CULVER

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

Questions are on page 9

1—Borax.
2—A trading post in Monument valley.
3—Roosevelt dam.
4—Paiute Indians.
5—Shiprock.
6—Death Valley.
7—As food.
8—Saguaro.
9—Find a new route to Monterey, California.
10—Eat it.
11—Trappers.
12—Pueblo dwellers.
13—Prescott.
14—Corundum.
15—Colorado River Indian reservation.
16—Mesquite.
17—A desert plant, often called goat nut.
18—Utah.
19—Edwin Corle.
20—Imperial Valley, California.

Nancy Lane who created a business founded on fragrance. On the table in front of her is one of the miniature ovens, or hornos, which is as distinctive a symbol of the Southwest as is the scent of the pinyon burning inside of it. E. B. Ellison photo.

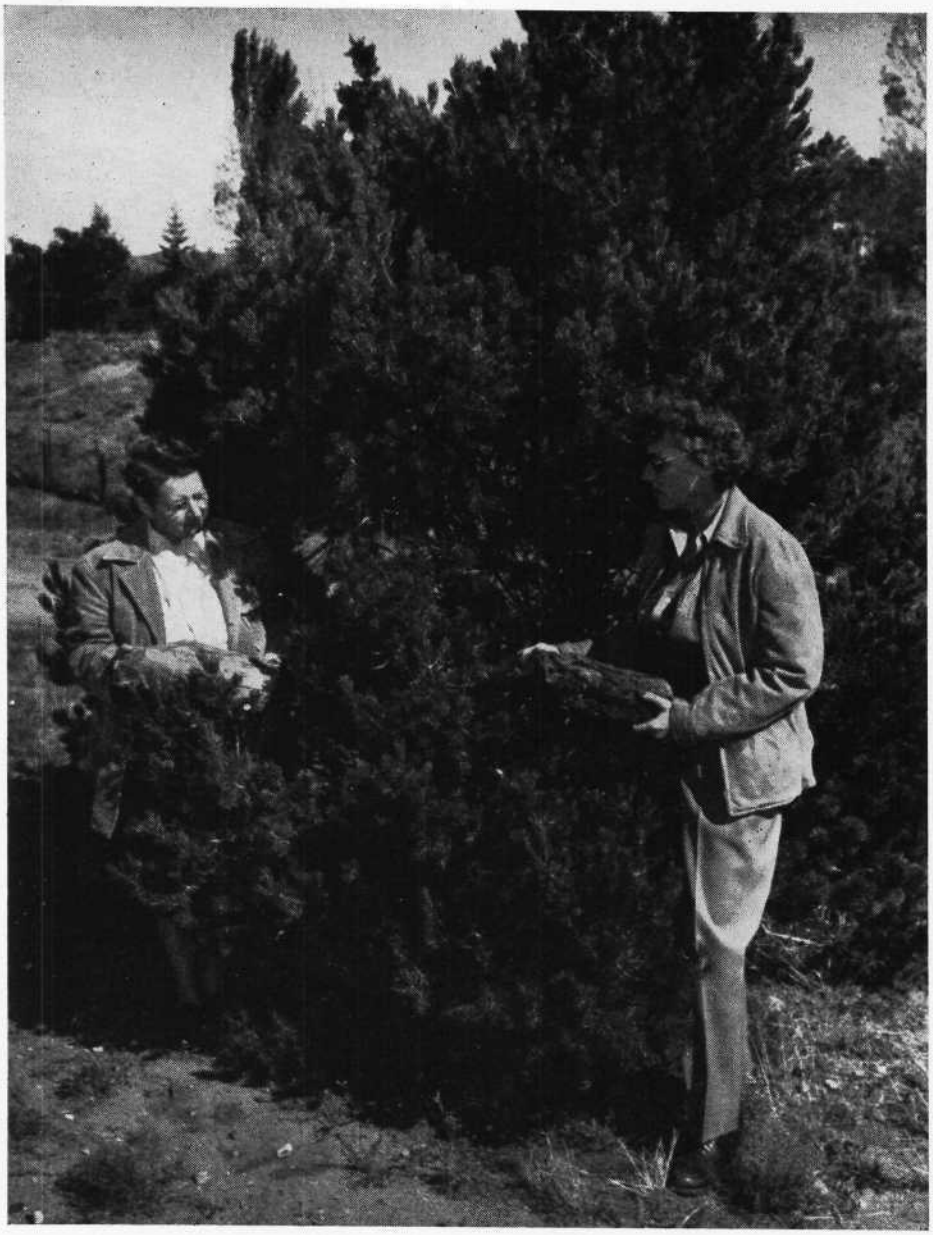
She Sells the Incense of the Pinyon Forest

The desert or semi-desert lands of the Southwest may look like misers to the uninitiated. But down through the ages amazing gifts have come from the miser's dusty pockets. The Red Man sustained himself with those gifts. The White Man has found beauty for his heart, peace for his mind and a vast expectation. The utilization of one of the abundant gifts has just come to light in the high mesa land around Santa Fe. A woman depleted in health and purse has founded a flourishing business on the fragrance of pinyon forests that speckle the hills of high desert country.

By DOROTHY L. PILLSBURY

NANCY Lane grew up in Washington, D. C., the daughter of a distinguished family. Later she went on the stage. Still later she felt the pull of Santa Fe, made her home there and started painting. Becoming interested in the large Spanish population of the state she worked for the state health department and served in the state legislature.

Then came bad days when ill health halted her widespread activities and cut off her income. At last when she was able to think of work at all, she consulted with her friend, Miss Billy Tober. "What I have to do," she said weakly, "is to find some little business I can operate from my home. All I



Nancy Lane and Billy Tober beside one of the trees noted for the piney fragrance of its wood. Los Alamos Times photo.

can work now is two or three hours a day."

Miss Tober, whose hobby is creating handmade furniture, thought awhile. "Smell this," she urged, picking up a handful of pinyon sawdust that lay around her work bench. It was soft and sticky with pitch. It had a clean piney fragrance. It was the distinctive aroma of dwarf pinyon forests. It was sun on adobe. It was rain on short needled green boughs. It was the incense from hundreds of squat little chimneys around Santa Fe.

The girls thought of the silver feathers of pinyon smoke that hang over the old town from October to June. They thought of nostalgic longings the memory of that fragrance brought to all who had experienced it. They thought of the tourists who went home with their cars loaded down with hunks of pinyon wood and of express boxes that were shipped east by train. They thought of distant friends who begged for gifts of pinyon greens at Christmas. They remembered boys in uniform who had written from the ends of the earth, "Put a sprig of pinyon in your next letter. I can smell it and see the whole country."

"Why not make pinyon incense," demanded Billy Tober. With the sawdust from her work bench they started a business. Obviously a binder had to be found to hold the sawdust together in little cones for burning. On Nancy Lane's cook stove they experimented with binders that would not take from the fragrance. Day after day messes of sawdust and binder were cooked, sniffed and discarded. At last they found the perfect binder which is now a carefully protected trade secret.

Then came the problem of a suitable holder for burning the pinyon incense. It, too, must be of the country. Nancy Lane designed the perfect holder. It is an exact replica in miniature of the adobe beehive ovens used to this day in Indian pueblos and Spanish villages. The natives call them *hornos*. She designed the box that holds the adobe oven and a supply of pinyon cones and decorated it with a print of one of her own paintings.

Today the business is strictly wholesale, but in its beginning the originator took some boxes to Taos to try out the retail trade. One day a Taos Indian wrapped in his sheet stalked in. He plunked down the price and walked off with burner and incense cones. Nancy Lane pursued him up the road toward the pueblo, wondering what on earth an Indian wanted with incense. To her question he replied, "Use smoking pinyon under blanket."

By inquiring around, Miss Lane got the explanation. For countless ages the Pueblo Indians have used a smoldering pinyon log under a blanket as a remedy for coughs, colds and breathing difficulties. The smoke from her incense cones answered the same purpose with less bother.

She had never considered the medicinal properties of her product. But medicinal or not, today her best customers are people in hospitals and sick rooms. Aside from the aromatic piney fragrance, sick people like to watch the tranquil design of blowing smoke that floats out of the little adobe oven by their bedsides. It seems to bring in a glimpse of sun filled spaces.

A few months ago twenty-four thousand cones a month were considered a satisfactory output. Today, the year and a half old business has jumped to eighty thousand cones a month with more orders coming in than can be filled immediately.

After housing her factory in a bedroom, a kitchen and a garage, Nancy Lane finally gave up her home to the demands of her growing business. "Pinon Studios" as she now calls her plant is just a step off of Santa Fe's famous Camino del Monte Sol—Street of the Sun Mountain—a couple of miles from the old plaza. The Camino is a street where famous artists paint and where Mary Austin had her "Beloved House" and wrote of the Southwest.

Around Pinon Studios grows the the yellow flowered chamisa. Up and down the surrounding tawny hills

The pinyon sawdust is compressed in little cones—with a binder that is a trade secret. E. B. Ellison photo.

march battalions of little pinyon trees like soldiers in grey-green uniforms. They march as if in a planned setting up to the nearby Sangre de Cristo mountains.

In what was once the living room of Miss Lane's house, sit Rositas, Marias and Carmencitas around a work table. They measure out the prepared sawdust and force it through a hand press that forms the cones. These are placed to dry on tin trays. Shelves that encircle the room hold tier on tier of drying cones. All about are packing cases, boxes and bales ready for shipment. What with the great cans of pinyon sawdust and the hundreds of drying cones, it is almost like working in the midst of a forest. You almost expect a pinyon jay to spread his blue wings and squawk, "pinyons, pinyons."

Conventions meeting in the Southwest have grabbed the pinyon cones with delight. By the five thousand lot they order little celophane bags filled with sawdust and holding half a dozen cones as favors for the people attending. A verse on the bag advises,

"Light a cone,
Blow out the flame,
New Mexico is in your home."

And it is the truth. All you have to do is to close your eyes and you will see fiesta in Santa Fe with the old wood cook stoves smoking fragrantly around the plaza. You will see St. Francis Eve processions winding through the crooked narrow streets lighted on either side by little pyres of pinyon wood. You will see Christmas Eve bonfires of pinyon burning redly in many a brown walled placita.

Not only have the dwarf pinyon forests befriended all comers in an arid land, but they have woven themselves into the fabric of a region. They are its essence and its fragrance. They are but one of the many gifts from dusty pockets of what the uninitiated call the miser lands of the Southwest. Nancy Lane has good reason to think they are not misers at all.

MINES AND MINING . . .

Salt Lake City, Utah . . .

New regulations governing the leasing of public lands for phosphate prospecting will not be adopted until the first part of 1949, according to Roscoe E. Bell, assistant director of the U. S. bureau of land management. Major regulation changes were expected to include provisions to allow prospecting of land for phosphate prior to execution of a land lease; a provision to double present acreage in any one lease holding by an individual or corporation; allowance for leasing of related minerals as well as phosphate; and a measure to increase acreage of public land which may be used for manufacturing plant sites from 40 to 80 acres.—*Salt Lake City Tribune*

• • •

Round Mountain, Nevada . . .

W. J. Loring of Tonopah and J. R. Midgley and John C. Kelly of Virginia City have executed a long term lease with Perry and John Henebergh of Round Mountain for the Rainbow claims owned by the brothers. The claims, located in the Round Mountain mining distirct, are to be developed for the various minerals exposed, including uranium and associated metals. The Heneberghs developed their property as a gold prospect, and discovery of uranium ore was made accidently. —*Tonopah Times-Bonanza.*

• • •

Randsburg, California . . .

Several lead and silver properties are being worked and shipping ore both inside Death Valley and in the area just west of the monument, it is reported. In the monument, Skidoo, Queen of Sheba, Harrisburg and Lippincott silver-lead mines are operating as well as the Chloride Cliff gold property and the Warm Springs and Ibex talc deposits. In the Panamint valley, the Minietta and Defense mines are being worked. The Jorgens custom mill in Wildrose canyon is not operating, due to the lull in gold activity.—*Randsburg Times*

• • •

Mina, Nevada . . .

The Douglas brothers of Fallon, who have been working on property south and east of the Simon lead-silver mine, northeast of Mina, reportedly have made a rich gold find. According to meager details available, the gold occurs in a white quartz of vug-hole nature and where the quartz fractures, the gold is literally plastered over the rock. Assays running $1000 a ton were said to be common while picked pieces go to $10,000. Size and depth of the orebody was not known.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*

• • •

Coaldale, Nevada . . .

A plant, estimated to cost $25,000, is being installed on Columbus marsh for the declared purpose of recovering gold, platinum and mercury from the clays of the lakebed. The machinery, specially built for the purpose, is being financed by San Francisco people and is on property owned by Leonard Becker-Jurgen. A feature of the plant is that the clays, apparently a fine dust when dry, are to be ground to still greater fineness. The plant, while only a pilot mill, reportedly will treat one ton of clay every 10 minutes. Five men are at present working on the project. Possible recovery of minerals from Nevada dry lake beds has been a much-debated subject in the past.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*

Salmon, Idaho . . .

The only large known cobalt deposit in the United States, it is said, lies in the Blackbird district of east central Idaho, where the Calera Mining company is currently attempting to mine it for commercial purposes. This country is the biggest consumer of cobalt in the world and, at present, the Belgian Congo enjoys a virtual monopoly on the market. Harold H. Sharp, president of the Howe Sound company, of which Calera Mining is a subsidiary, declares the concern plans to erect the nucleus of a town on property already selected eight miles from the mine, to house expanded mining and milling crews. Miners have known for 50 years that cobalt existed in the district, but they dumped it into the mountain streams because they were after copper and the Anaconda Mining and Smelting company, where their ores were concentrated, penalized them for high cobalt content.—*Humboldt, Nevada, Star*

• • •

San Francisco, California . . .

From Alaska to Africa, Canada to California, gold miners are complaining that their costs have risen in world-wide inflation while the price of their product is still pegged by Washington at the pre-war level. Gold was set at $35 an ounce by the U. S. treasury in 1934, and has not been changed since. Results of the cost-price squeeze, it was said, are shown in falling production and closed mines. In 1940 miners took 4,800,000 ounces of gold from the lands of continental United States. Output in 1947 was just over 2,000,000 ounces. The Homestake Mining company, biggest U. S. gold producer, reports the cost of processing a ton of gold-bearing ore is up 50 per cent from the 1941 level.—*Humboldt, Nevada, Star*

• • •

Ely, Nevada . . .

Appointment of Arthur J. O'Connor as general superintendent of Consolidated Copper Mines corporation, Kimberly, has been announced by C. I. Cook, general manager. O'Connor was promoted from chief engineer, and succeeds the late Paul J. Sirkegian. O'Connor has been with Consolidated Copper nearly 22 years and is a graduate of the Michigan School of Mines. Harold Bishop has been appointed chief engineer of the corporation.—*Salt Lake City Tribune*

• • •

Washington, D. C. . . .

When a Denver mining man asked the treasury department for regulations regarding the buying and selling of gold, he received this information from Leland Howard, acting director of the mint: "This is to reply to your letter concerning statements in the press that it is lawful to sell placer gold in the open markets of the world. Such statements are inaccurate and misleading. While under section 54.19 of the gold regulations, gold in its natural state may be purchased, sold and transported within the United States without the necessity of obtaining a treasury license, such gold may not be exported without a license. The treasury grants such licenses only for the purpose of sending the gold out of the country for refining or processing and subject to the condition that an equivalent amount of gold in refined or processed form be returned to the United States."—*Battle Mountain, Nevada, Scout*

Vernal, Utah . . .

Utah's first commercial oil well reportedly was brought in September 18, about three miles west of Jensen. Initial flow from the Equity Oil company's N. J. Meagher No. 1 was 300 barrels a day. The well is located on the Ashley dome, and production is from the Weber sands at 4152 feet, the same strata which furnishes the oil at Rangely, Colorado. The discovery marks the first successful well in many years of investigation in eastern Utah, made more intensive during the past five years by oil discoveries at Rangely. President J. L. Dougan of Equity, an independent firm, has searched unsuccessfully for oil in Utah for the past 25 years. A day after the first oil reached the surface, the flow had dropped to a steady six barrels an hour, 150 barrels a day.—*Vernal Express*

• • •

Goldfield, Nevada . . .

The old Bullion and Benton lead-silver claims on Montezuma mountain, whose written history reportedly can be traced back to 1863, are producing again for Gene Perry and Ted Johnson who have leased the property from Roscoe Wright and Martin P. Brown. A shipment of galena to the International smelter in Salt Lake City reportedly went 15 per cent in lead and carried 35 ounces of silver to the ton. The claims are located 22 miles west of Goldfield.—*Goldfield News*

• • •

Austin, Nevada . . .

A road is being constructed to the Stokes antimony property at the head of Dry canyon in the Big Creek area. The road will follow a switch-back pattern making the climb to the mine practical for heavy vehicles. When it is completed, equipment will be added to permit removal of the overburden and allow open pit mining on a large scale. The property, leased by Tony Romano, has been sub-leased to Phil Cox of Placerville, California, who is developing the mine. During World War I, there was heavy antimony production from the Big Creek district. — *Reese River Reveille*

• • •

Goldfield, Nevada . . .

Initial tests on the 100-ton mill of the Newmont Mining corporation are expected to be run in October, having been held up awaiting arrival of some vital parts of the machinery. Company ore will be treated exclusively at the outset while kinks are being smoothed out of the plant's flowsheet, which reportedly will utilize a new method of charcoal recovery with an end efficiency estimated at from 92 to 95 per cent. It is not believed that any custom ore will be accepted until after the first of next year. A concentration of about 25 to one is anticipated for the mill, with a 20-ton truckload leaving here for the smelter every fifth day, each shipment containing $25,000 gold concentrates.—*Goldfield News*

• • •

Goldfield, Nevada . . .

First shipment of 16 tons of lead-silver ore from the Becker-Lane lease at Montezuma on the New York claim of the Reorganized Silver King Divide property in Esmeralda county, returned $190 a ton from a Utah smelter. The leasers, Nate Hecker and Vic Lane, still have about 24 inches of this highgrade showing in the face of a raise, but are awaiting a jig which they will install to handle the lower grade ore which accompanies the highgrade. A large tonnage of dump ore also will be put through the jig, according to the leasers. —*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*

HERE AND THERE . . . *on the Desert*

ARIZONA

Pueblo Rooms Excavated . . .

POINT OF PINES—During the eight weeks summer study at the University of Arizona's archeological field school at Point of Pines on the San Carlos Apache Indian reservation, student archeologists excavated 14 rooms of a 600-room pueblo. According to the investigators, the early people of the area used walk-in wells for their water supply. These wells, dating to pre-Columbian times, are similar to inverted cones with the wider opening at the top and with various step levels descending to the bottom. In actual excavation of a walk-in well, water was found and bowls for carrying it uncovered. This fall Dr. John Lassley of the San Carlos agriculture extension service will attempt to develop the water found for cattle on the Apache range—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Meteor Crater Literature . . .

WINSLOW — The Standard Iron company of Philadelphia, which owns the Meteor crater property west of Winslow, has issued new literature for free distribution to visitors and others interested in the story of the crater. D. Moreau Barringer, company president, declared, "The company always has had a sense of responsibility to the public which is inherent in its ownership of this natural wonder. We feel the public should have the chance to visit it as freely as possible, paying only such reasonable fee as is necessary to maintain decent facilities for their reception." — *Gallup Independent.*

• • •

The Hopis Are Voting . . .

KEAMS CANYON — Voting interest among the Hopi Indians is high, according to J. D. Crawford, agency superintendent. Four hundred registered for the September primaries—first Arizona election in which reservation Indians could vote—and registration for the general elections is exceeding expectations. Crawford estimates there are 1200 Hopis of voting age of whom 85 per cent meet educational requirements for the literacy test. Of those registered for the primary, more than 60 per cent voted. For the elections, precincts were set up in the villages of Keams Canyon, Polacca, Toreba, Oraibi, Hotevilla, Pinon and Indian Wells. The Indians made their own booths and ballot boxes.—*Gallup Independent.*

• • •

Homesteaders at Yuma Mesa . . .

YUMA—Influx of veterans from 16 states who acquired the 54 farms on the Yuma mesa land of the Gila project has started. According to Joseph P. Collopy, superintendent of the project, 90 per cent of the homesteaders who won farms at the June 29 drawing have met bureau of reclamation requirements by paying the water bill for the first year. At present all the farms are in alfalfa and several have been contracted for sheep grazing during the winter months. Many of the owners are undecided as to what types of crops to raise, but dairies, vineyards and citrus orchards are planned.—*Yuma Sun.*

• • •

Throngs at Snake Dance . . .

HOLBROOK—The Snake dance prayer for rain held by the Hopis at Mishongnovi, August 25, was reportedly one of the largest ever staged there. Nineteen snake dancers and 13 antelope dancers participated. Four thousand persons witnessed the ceremonial, about half of them tourists who made the journey in more than 600 motor vehicles over 90 miles of dirt road. Last year immediate floods which stranded most of the visitors followed the dance. This year the government weather station at Keams Canyon reported there had been rain somewhere on the reservation on each of the 30 days before the dance, but none for the two days following.—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Early Tree Ring Date . . .

TUCSON—What is said to be the earliest definite cutting date from a tree in the Southwest was announced by Dr. Edmund Schulman at the annual Southwestern archeological conference held at Point of Pines field school in August. Dr. Schulman, dendrochronologist at the University of Arizona, declares that the cutting, from a collection made by Earl Morris of Boulder, Colorado, dates to the year 203 A. D. and was found in southwest Colorado near Durango. Dr. Schulman also told the 100 archeologists and ethnologists that a chronology for northeast Utah has been established. Method of dating early ruins in the Southwest through tree rings was made possible through the work of A. E. Douglass of the University of Arizona.—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Who Gets Bitten? . . .

TEMPE—Three types of persons are bitten by Gila monsters, according to the poisonous animals research laboratory at Tempe state college: laboratory workers who handle the Gila monsters so frequently they become careless, visitors who are attracted by a brightly colored lizard and pick it up, and those who are just plain foolish. According to the laboratory, it is not necessary to cut off the big lizard's head before its jaws can be loosened. Hold a match under its belly or slit either side of its jaw and it will let go, investigators declare. Only the largest of the Gila monsters have enough venom to kill a person, it was said.—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Ice-Freezing Contest? . . .

TUCSON—Hurst Amyx, proprietor of Mt. Lemmon lodge, has given a reverse

THE DESERT TRADING POST

Classified advertising in this section costs 7 cents a word, $1.00 minimum per issue

INDIAN GOODS

ALWAYS THE BEST in Indian things. Old and new Navajo rugs a specialty. Fine jewelry and baskets. Our thirty tons of rocks and minerals include many hard to get items. Always welcome. Daniels Indian Trading Post, 401 W. Foothill Blvd., Fontana, Calif.

4 VERY FINE ancient Indian Arrowheads $1.00, 4 tiny perfect bird arrowheads $1.00. 1 Ancient Stone Tomahawk $1.00. 2 Flint Skinning Knives $1.00. 1 large Flint Hoe $1.00. 2 Spearheads $1.00. 10 Arrowheads from 10 states $1.00. 20 Damaged Arrowheads $1.00. 10 Fish Scalers, $1.00. 10 Hide Scrapers $1.00. 4 Perfect Saw Edged arrowheads $1.00. The above 11 offers $10.00. Postpaid. List free. Lear's, Kirby, Arkansas.

WANTED TO BUY: Old Indian buttons, any number, from one button to an entire collection. Please write or bring them in. Also wanted abalone shell buttons with metal shank. Hall's Silver Button Shop, Agua Caliente Springs, Julian, Calif.

RARE INDIAN RELICS—Dance masks, rattles, necklaces, concha belts, costumes, war bonnets, blankets, pipes, tomahawks, spears, arrowheads, Yumas, Folsoms, also antique flintlock and percussion guns, swords, daggers, mounted Texas longhorns. Send want list for quotation. I also buy and exchange. P. L. Summers, Stamford, Texas.

BOOKS—MAGAZINES

BOOKFINDERS—Scarce, out of print, unusual books quickly supplied. Send wants. Clifton, Box 1377d, Beverly Hills, Calif.

"GOLD PANNING FOR PROFIT." Healthy, profitable occupation. Beginners' big illustrated instruction book, $1.00. Desert Jim, 627 Lillian, Stockton, California.

OUTDOOR RAMBLER—You'll enjoy every issue of this outdoor publication. 50c year, 10c copy. Outdoor Rambler, Box 884, Ione, California.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

MUST SELL nationally known, going gem business. Complete stock and lapidary equipment. Also large lot with three buildings, including five room modern home and 2 guest cottages. You walk in, I'll walk out. Must change location because of illness in family. Ben O. Morton, 453 E. Garvey Blvd., El Monte, Calif.

FOR SALE OR LEASE—Five rental income, with space to build three more three-room apts. 100 ft. x 555 ft., lake frontage. Private beach, one hundred dollars per month on lease. Contact owner, phone Elsn. 2732 or write 908 Lake Shore Drive, Elsinore, Calif.

DATE GARDEN—Full bearing palms. Two story home and apartment. Only $20,000.00. Between Palm Desert and Indio. Carl Henderson, Realtor, Palm Desert, Calif.

GIFT SHOP FOR SALE—Long established successful business. Located across the road from the new DESERT MAGAZINE plant in beautiful Palm Village. Lease has two years to run, can be renewed. Unparalleled location for a gem and mineral business. Modern building includes a mail order date list of more than 1000 names. Fine opportunity for anyone who knows the gift shop, tourist, mail order, gem and mineral business. Small cash outlay handles. Write to Box Q, c-o DESERT MAGAZINE, Palm Desert, Calif. Key at DESERT MAGAZINE office.

HOME AND INCOME for life. Nine Units on Highway 111 near Desert Magazine. $44,000.00 cash will handle. Carl Henderson, Realtor, Palm Desert, Calif.

FOR SALE—Highway property, 3 cabins furnished, plus 5 room house, 1¼ acres fertile soil, steady income, plenty shade and water. Full price $7850. Would take some raw desert land in trade. Write, Cal Black, P. O. Box 836, Redding, Calif.

REAL ESTATE

DESERT RANCHOS—In "Wonder Belt" area six miles from Palm Springs. Incomparable view of desert and complete panorama of mountains. Five to twenty acre ranchos. Nothing in common with ordinary subdivisions. Emphasis on people who want natural desert beauty and space for true ranch life with riding horses, citrus and date groves. Hard roads, power, and water from 700-ft. well. Reasonable prices. Address C. A. Barrett, P. O. Box 16, Palm Desert, California.

ROOMY, RECONDITIONED cabin, size 24x24. Bedroom, living room, combination kitchen and dining room, bath and attached washroom, garage, city water and electricity. Fenced-in lawn, rock walls. Very pleasant and comfortable. Furnished throughout, new stove, piano, washing machine. On highway 95, bus service, 50 mi. to Las Vegas or Needles, Calif. Suitable for home or vacation cabin. Fishing nearby. Please contact Vera Sloan, Box 155, Searchlight, Nev.

MISCELLANEOUS

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS—From the deserts of the world. Don-Rita brand. By appointment only. Write us your needs and we will try to help you. Michael Donnelly Cacti Gardens, 334 Lowell St., Daly City, Calif.

LEARN the profitable jewelry and goldsmithing trade at home. Simplified course teaches jewelry designing, manufacture and repairing; gemsetting, etc. Gemcrafters, Dept. F., Kalispell, Mont.

GENUINE CALIFORNIA GOLD: One nice nugget $1.00, four nuggets $2.00. Desert Jim, 627 Lillian, Stockton, California.

FOR SALE—Karakul wool bed blankets, colors, blue, green, natural and maroon. Money back guarantee. Price $17.50. Write Addis Kelley, 4637 E. 52nd Place, Maywood, Calif.

KARAKULS. Producers of Persian Lamb fur are easy to raise, adaptable to any climate or altitude. For further information write Addis Kelley, 4637 E. 52nd Place, Maywood, Calif.

METEORITES WANTED, iron or stone, highest prices. Stuart Perry, Adrian, Mich.

COLOR SLIDES—Travel, Nature, Geology, etc. Free list (with sample 30c, three for dollar). Kelly D. Choda, Box 5, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

FRED AND JESSIE PORTER welcome you to the "Pow-Wow" Trading Post, Yermo, 14 miles east of Barstow, Hiway 91. Rocks! Rocks! Rocks! Rocks in the rough, slabbed, preforms and cabochons. Fluorescent and rare specimens. Caledonite, Linerite, Benitoite, Neptunite and many others. See your own cut. Gifts and Souvenirs.

PANNING GOLD—Another hobby for Rockhounds and Desert Roamers. Know how to pan gold, where to look for it and be able to recognize valuable quartz ledges. The places you go are where rich virgin ground is found. Two instruction booklets 25c or send your name for free literature and catalogue of mining books and supplies for beginners. Old Prospector, Box 21-B173, Dutch Flat, Calif.

WILL TRADE or pool information gained in ten years search for lost mines of Tumacacori, Arizona. Land marks, trail marks, geological formation, etc. Also Tumacacori or Molina map translations. F. R. Winslow, 7337 Ethel Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif.

SILVERY DESERT HOLLY PLANT—Ideal desert Christmas remembrance. One Dollar postpaid in U. S. Order from us and we will ship direct to your friends for Christmas. Desert Plant Nursery, Rancho Mirage, Indio, California.

USE THAT MONEY to build now—pay $250 cash, balance monthly on Ranchito homesites. No well to drill, no pump, tank or tower. Elec. and water mains now in—moderate restrictions. Total prices from $750, insured title, wide view, near P.O., stores. Write for maps of this All-Year desert foothill tract. Clarke Battelle, Lucerne Valley, Calif.

DESERT ACREAGE in beautiful Coachella Valley near Palm Springs. Excellent subdivision and homesites with date palms and grapefruit trees in abundance. See Jim Bishop. Office one mile west of Indio on Palm Springs Highway. P. O. Box 3241, Indio. Phone 7-2214.

SPARKLING Kodachrome slides of desert and Western States. Start a color slide collection now. Send for free list or 50c for sample slide and list. Colorslide Agency, Post Office Box 508, North Hollywood, Calif.

GEOLOGIC & SCENIC color slides for Educational Entertainment. Catalog Free. Heald-Robinson, Dept 2, 112 E. Lemon Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT—in color slides. See Pat's Hole, Lodore Canyon, etc. We have a stock of excellent 2"x2" slide duplicates of the remote back-country of this area available for mail sales this winter. Send 40 cents stamps or coin for sample and descriptive list. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION, Estes Park, Colorado.

COUNTY MAPS

For Schools, Hunters, Fishermen, Public Offices, and Travelers

CALIF.: with Twnshp., Rng., Sec., Mines, Roads, Trails, Streams, Lakes, R.R., Schools, Rngr. Sta., Elev., Nat. Forest, Pwr. Lines, Canals, Boundaries, etc.

Sizes: 20x30 to 73x100 inches

Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Kings, Lake, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba—**each $1.**

Tuolumne, Santa Barbara, Plumas, Placer, Modoc, Madera—**$1.50.**

Tulare, Tehama, Imperial—**each $2.**

San Diego, Mendocino, Humboldt—**$2.50.**

Trinity, Shasta, Mono, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Lassen—**$3.**

Fresno, Kern, Riverside—**$2.50 - $5.**

Los Angeles—**$1 and $3.**

Siskiyou—**$2 and $4.**

Inyo County, **$15**; E or W½ **$7.50**; San Bernardino, 73x110, **$15**; No. or So. ½ **$7.50**; NW., SW., NE., or SE¼, **$3.75.**

Also Oregon, Idaho and Washington County Maps.

WORLD'S MINERALS 2417 San Pablo Avenue — TEmplebar 2-3870
OAKLAND 12, California

"EVERYTHING FOR THE HIKER"

SLEEPING BAGS
AIR MATTRESSES
SMALL TENTS
and many other items

VAN DEGRIFT'S HIKE HUT
717 West 7th Street
LOS ANGELES 14, CALIFORNIA

twist to Arizona's recent ice-melting contest by issuing a challenge for an ice-freezing contest. "Ice won't melt on Mt. Lemmon," according to Amyx. "We'll have to place a pan of boiling water in the sun at high noon and wait for it to freeze." The challenge followed Flagstaff's claim that the Sno Bowl was the iciest spot in the state.—*Yuma Sun.*

• • •

Mark, Michael and Lillian Mary Hickson, only known living Navajo triplets, celebrated their second birthday at a party in Fort Defiance, August 25.

• • •

Travel to Grand Canyon national park during August, 1948, totaled 121,455, an all-time high for any one month, with a daily average of 3917 visitors entering the park, according to Superintendent H. C. Bryant.

• • •

CALIFORNIA

GI's Prospect the Mojave . . .

BARSTOW — Growing numbers of ex-GI's reportedly are returning to the Mojave desert to "strike it rich." Many who trained at Camp Irwin, Daggett and other desert training areas were said to have listened to the tales of the old-time prospectors and have decided that if there isn't always gold in the hills, there may be titanium, tungsten, chromite and beryllium. The training the men had at camp has taught them to avoid the dangers from wind, heat and snake bite.—*Barstow Printer-Review.*

• • •

Observatory for Inyo? . . .

BISHOP—The 14,242-foot-high top of White mountain, highest peak in the range of mountains on the eastern side of Owens valley, has been proposed by Dr. I. S. Bowen of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar observatories and Dr. F. Zwicky of Cal-Tech and Aerojet Engineering corporation as the site for a high-altitude observatory. The projected observatory, with a base camp at 10,000 feet, will be used by the aerophysics, optics and physics sections of Naval Ordnance Test station at Inyokern and by researchers from all over the country.—*Inyo Register.*

• • •

Salton Park Delayed . . .

INDIO—Establishment of the proposed Salton Sea park on the north shore of the sea received a setback when Riverside county supervisors were informed that the only way to acquire the needed property would be through special legislation. A letter from the department of the interior explained that the land was withdrawn in 1920 for use in connection with the Imperial Valley irrigation project and there was no authority in the reclamation laws which would permit the bureau to convey title or permit an exchange of public lands—*Indio News.*

• • •

Test Run for Kaiser Line . . .

MECCA—Crossing the old Bradshaw trail where horse-drawn stages once toiled across the desert, a new 1500-horsepower diesel-electric locomotive made a test run in August over the rails of Kaiser's new $3,800,000 railroad from Mortmar to the Eagle mountain iron mine. When the mine is in full operation the locomotive will haul 2500 tons of iron ore a day to the main line of the Southern Pacific for use at the Kaiser steel mill in Fontana. Ore already blocked out was said to be sufficient for 50 years operation at the mine.—*Indio News.*

SLEEP IN YOUR CAR . . .

CALIFORNIA CAR BED

Transferable luxurious, air-foam inner-spring unit converts your car to a double bed.

1-3 hours to install. No Cutting.

Now Available . . .

CUSTOM CRUISING SEAT . . .

Marvelous new dual front seats converting at a fingertouch to single OR double bed, reclining chairs, or chaise longue. An emergency ambulance, ideal for the tourist. Featured in Newsweek, June 21, P. 73. Write for Brochure "F."

CALIFORNIA CAR BED COMPANY

2725 W. 54th St., Los Angeles 43 AXminster 34700

QUALITY DATES at WHOLESALE PRICES from KERSTEN RANCH

Huge Packing Plant and Cold Storage Plant at the Kersten Ranch

Finest Deglet Noor
DATES
For ONLY
$1.75 for 3 pounds
Postpaid
Packed in Special Boxes For Safe Delivery

Paul Kersten, owner of the great Del Sol Brand 235 acre Kersten Ranch, believes in dealing directly with the consumer. He grows ALL the Dates and Grapes he sells. He packs and stores his fruit in his own packing and storage plant. He saves the public thousands of dollars. He is selling Deglet Noor Dates of the finest quality at wholesale prices.

SPECIAL . . . 15 POUND FLAT $7.50

Choicest DATES — Postpaid

Bargain Quality Pack
DATES
Big 5 Pound Package
Only $2.65
Postpaid
Finest DATES Grown
Packed in Special Boxes For Safe Delivery

Write Kersten Ranch, Indio, California

Halfway between Palm Springs and Indio — Off Highway 111

Fight Joshua Destruction . . .

VICTORVILLE—The Desert chambers of commerce, composed of businessmen from Mojave desert cities, have united to protest the "wanton destruction and removal of the Joshua trees from their native habitat." A resolution urging enforcement of county ordinance 310, making removal of desert vegetation of certain types illegal, was passed unanimously and a committee to investigate the matter appointed. The *Barstow Printer-Review* editorialized: "Whole areas are being denuded of this beautiful individualist that so-called desert-minded morons may decorate the front lawns of imitation Hollywood movie sets." —*Barstow Printer-Review.*

• • •

Motor Vehicle Mountaineer . . .

DEATH VALLEY — An expedition headed by George Palmer Putnam and Ben Roos and sponsored by General Petroleum drove from Bad Water, 279.6 feet below sea level in Death Valley to a 14,205-foot shelf, just below the top of White mountain, said to be the highest point to which a motor vehicle has been driven. Three of the cars had to be abandoned at 13,000 feet because of high velocity winds and freezing temperatures, but Putnam's army vehicle made it to within 40 feet of the top, where cliffs halted the ascent. It took three hours to make one stretch of 100 yards which was traversed only after the car's power winch was hooked to an outcropping.—*Randsburg Times.*

Death Valley Officially Hot . . .

DEATH VALLEY—Army meteorologists in Washington have determined that the floor of Death Valley during July is the hottest spot in North America. On the basis of records for the past 36 years, the temperature on the desert floor can be expected to reach a high of 180 degrees Fahrenheit at least one day every seven years. Five feet above the surface, the official level for recording temperatures, the heat would be 125 degrees at the same time. The hottest official temperature ever recorded in the valley was 134 degrees on July 10, 1913.—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Dry Decade Predicted . . .

PALM SPRINGS—If next year's precipitation is low, according to Donald M. Baker, consulting engineer for the Riverside county flood control district, the odds are five to one that the next decade will be one of the driest that has occurred in the Southern California area. Baker's predictions, based on rainfall records for the past 175 years gathered from weather bureau reports, old Spanish journals, tree ring studies and other sources, were published in the *Western Construction News.* The last dry periods were from 1922 to 1934, and 1893 to 1904.—*Palm Springs Desert Sun.*

• • •

Crickets vs. Gnats . . .

COACHELLA—The *Desert Sun* at Palm Springs in a recent issue declared that insects which have been biting the bare midriffs of girls in the resort community are man-eating gnats which have been coming over in hordes from Indio and Coachella. Coachella was indignant. According to its newspaper, *Desert Barnacle,* the town is plagued with crickets coming over from Palm Springs.—*Hemet News.*

• • •

Desert Rat Circus Opens . . .

THOUSAND PALMS — Harry Oliver, editor of the *Desert Rat Scrapbook,* and Vernon Peck, Jr., have opened the Desert Rat Circus at Old Fort Oliver, Thousand Palms. Featured in the museum of desert rat oddities are ancient music boxes, ancestors of the modern juke box, a mechanical piano, a mechanical violin and other entertainment features which actually were used in the old mining camps, and which will still operate when the proper inducement is inserted.

• • •

Indian Jurisdiction Shifted . . .

BISHOP—Transfer of Inyo, Mono and Alpine counties from the jurisdiction of the Carson, Nevada, Indian agency to the California Indian agency at Sacramento has been planned for October 1, according to announcement by Walter V. Woehlke at a meeting of the Owens valley Paiute and Shoshone Indians held in Bishop in September. Woehlke, who is director of the California agency, also discussed changes in control of land, water rights and improvements which must be made if the proposed withdrawal of the Indian bureau from supervision of Indian affairs in California is carried out.—*Inyo Register*

Desert Stationery In Natural Color

For Christmas gifts, for Christmas acknowledgments—or for little notes to your friends—the gorgeous coloring of desert blossoms on note and letter paper.

Any of the following boxed stationery will be mailed to you postpaid:

CACTI AND YUCCA BLOSSOMS, 12 notes with envelopes. Box, $1.40; 2 boxes $2.65

DESERT BEAUTIES, 12 Florachromes of cacti, yucca and agave. Box, $1.35; 2 boxes $2.50

DESERT FLORAL NOTES, 12 Yucca and Saguaro blossoms. Box, $1.35; 2 boxes $2.50

WILD FLOWER NOTES, 24 sheets and envelopes of Indian Paint Brush, Harebell, Gaillardia and Columbine. Box, $1.35; 2 boxes.....$2.50

CACTUS FLORACHROMES, 8 sheets, 8 notes, 8 blanks, 16 envelopes. Box, $1.65; 2 boxes.....$3.00

ALL POSTPAID ANYWHERE IN U.S.A.

Full Refund if Not Satisfied When You See This Stationery

DESERT CRAFTS SHOP

Palm Desert, California

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley

The stranger steered his cloud of dust up to the Inferno store, halted, and emerged in quest of supplies and tourist information. Echo Canyon was next on his list, and he needed directions and mileage.

Hard Rock Shorty, bringing the front legs of his chair down to the floor, took charge of the tourist and his questions.

"I reckon yuh mean jist the common Echo canyon," he began. "Nobody but a prospector an' a mountain goat could get up to my special one, the gran'daddy o' all echo canyons."

Hard Rock paused to test the stranger's reaction, and finding it one of respectful attention, continued his story.

"This here Echo canyon that the tourists takes in is purty good, but if yer lookin' fer conversation, yuh'll be disappointed.

"Now you take this echoin' place o' mine over the other side o' Telescope. They's a gulch over there jist full o' echoes. Me an' them echoes used to sass each other back an' forth—never no hard feelin's though. But I never seen nothin' remarkable about 'em till one day after I'd cussed out my ol' burro better'n usual. That wuz in the mornin' jist afore startin' up the gulch to the claim.

"I'm a durned wart hog, if about four hours later I didn't hear that same cussin' word fer word. Even that poor ol' burro noticed it an' give me a mean look.

"Wal it didn't take me no time to figger it out. That there cussin' wuz nuthin' but a echo of my mornin' work-out—sort of a delayed action job. An' you can bet that four-hour echo was a big help to me. Ever after I'd jist holler 'Quittin' time,' in the mornin' afore I started out to work, an' faithful as a houn' dog, that echo would report about noon by hollerin' back, 'Quittin' time.'

"I always wanted to reward its faithful services in savin' me from workin' overtime too much, but I ain't figgered out yet what kind of a present yuh can give a echo."

NEVADA

Hamilton Ore Collection . . .

ELY—Robert Millard, owner of the R. A. Dean collection of minerals from the ghost town of Hamilton, has offered the collection to White Pine county provided the collection be properly displayed and lighted. The minerals, given to Millard by Dean before his death, are taken from the White Pine mining district and are regarded as the most complete collection known from that area. Dean came to Hamilton in 1907 as a schoolteacher, and remained to prospect when there were no more pupils.—*Ely Record.*

• • •

Tonopah Landmark Goes Down . . .

MILLERS—The 180-foot smokestack of the old powerhouse at Millers, 14 miles northwest of Tonopah, has been hauled down and will be sold for scrap. Long a landmark in the area, the stack was erected by the Tonopah Mining company in 1904 to take smoke and fumes and afford a draft for the boilers used to power the big mill where the mining company handled ore from its Mizpah mine. When the stack crashed it crumpled in the middle and fell against the building, reducing much of the lumber and timbers to kindling.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza.*

• • •

Rides Mechanical Burro . . .

ROUND MOUNTAIN—Charley Spencer, Nevada prospector, has really been seeing the back country in his army truck. Recently Charley climbed to the summit of the Toiyabe range from the Reese river side and spent two days at 11,000 feet elevation, near the site of the recent gold strike by the Meyer brothers. Leaving the summit, Charley followed the old road made by the pioneers who developed the mines of Ophir canyon more than 75 years ago. Nothing was left of the road, unused for more than half a century, excepting a little grade or cut here and there but the army truck made it down into Smoky valley with little difficulty.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza.*

• • •

Camel-Horse Captured? . . .

FALLON—A "camel-horse" allegedly has been captured by local cowboys. Witnesses report the freak was lassoed by the cowboys after a wild chase over rough mountain terrain near Tonopah. Its front quarters were said to resemble those of a horse, but it bears a camel's hump. Like a camel, it cannot eat without kneeling down and it lopes like a camel, bringing its hind feet well forward of its front feet. The captors said that it was shunned by the wild mustang bands near Tonopah and speculate that it might be a throw-back to the camels used for transportation in Nevada in the 1860's. —*Salt Lake City Tribune.*

• • •

Land Office Stays at Carson . . .

CARSON CITY — Luther T. Hoffman, regional administrator of the bureau of land management in San Francisco, has announced that the Nevada U. S. land office will remain in Carson City for the time being. At one time President Truman signed an executive order directing that the land office be moved to Reno, but the plan brought a storm of protests from residents of the state who felt that the state capital was the logical place for the office.—*Humboldt Star.*

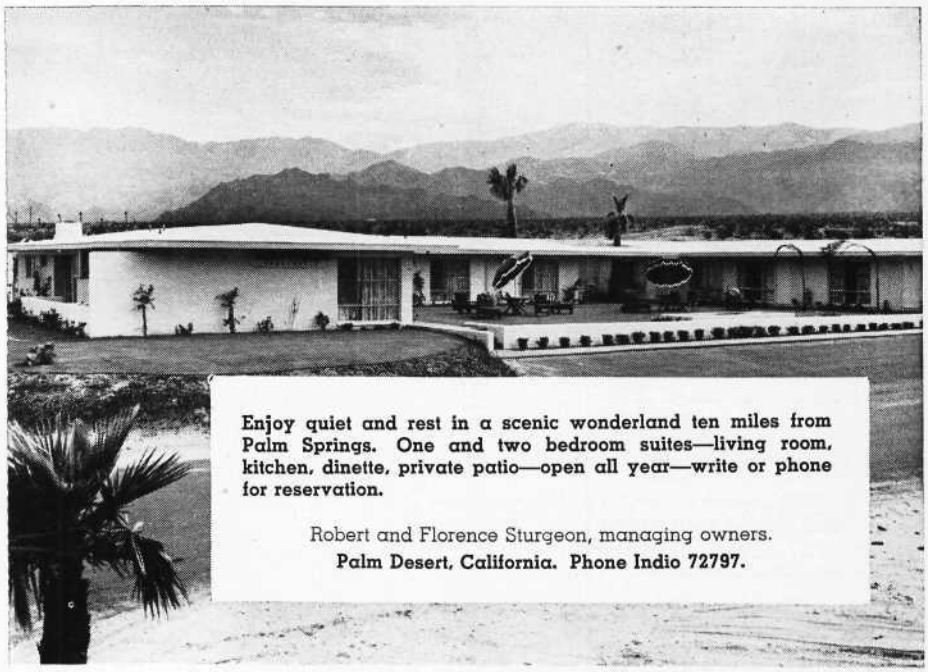
Nevada's First Cotton Crop . . .

PAHRUMP—For what is said to be the first time in the history of the state, a commercial crop of cotton has been grown in Nevada. The experimental plot of 100 acres in Pahrump valley, where climatic conditions match those of the San Joaquin valley of California, was planted by a California man on acreage owned by Elmer Bowman. It will shortly be harvested and trucked to Bakersfield for ginning. It is reported that at least 500 acres of Pahrump land will be planted to cotton next year. —*Tonopah Times-Bonanza.*

Fight for Dam Payments . . .

CARSON CITY—The dispute between Clark county and the state of Nevada over division of funds from Hoover dam has reached the state supreme court. Clark county is seeking to obtain part or all of the $300,000 annual Hoover dam payment now made to the state treasury by the federal government. The southern Nevada county contends that the money represents funds which would have been paid in as taxes had the power project been built by private interests rather than the federal government.—*Salt Lake City Tribune.*

Lovely TWIN PALMS at Palm Desert



Enjoy quiet and rest in a scenic wonderland ten miles from Palm Springs. One and two bedroom suites—living room, kitchen, dinette, private patio—open all year—write or phone for reservation.

Robert and Florence Sturgeon, managing owners.
Palm Desert, California. Phone Indio 72797.

TEXACO

ART FIELDS

LUBRICATION - WASHING - TIRES
BATTERIES - ACCESSORIES

OPPOSITE DESERT MAGAZINE
HIGHWAY 111, PALM VILLAGE

S & H Green Stamps

B. F. Goodrich

Antelopes Were Scarce . . .

WINNEMUCCA—The first antelope survey undertaken by the Nevada state fish and game commission has started with a three-day aerial checking of the Calico Mountain-Owyhee Antelope range unit located in the northern parts of Elko and Humboldt counties. During 20 hours of flying in which a light plane flew 1500 miles in grid-iron and transect patterns and surveyed 2080 square mlies, only 314 antelope were counted. Game commission biologists Niles N. Nilsson and Anton Sutich were assisted by Leonard M. Springer and Pilot-observer Ralph Scott in the survey.—*Humboldt Star.*

• • •

Even the Whistle Is Gone . . .

GOLDFIELD—Not even a whistle remains along the Tonopah & Goldfield right-of-way. The historic shortline which entered Goldfield in the boom days of 1904 has passed out of existence with the pulling up of the last rail by the Commercial Construction company. Many of the ties are being sent to Round Mountain for extensive placer operations planned there. A large quantity of steel rails are at Tonopah Junction where they will be sold to the highest domestic bidder. Shipment of rails to Europe reportedly has been halted by the state department.—*Goldfield News.*

• • •

NEW MEXICO

Digging in New Mexico . . .

SANTA FE—Thirteen scientific educational institutions of the nation and Alaska already are in the field or are seeking permits to excavate for fossil remains or traces of ancient man on Department of Interior lands in the western states. Scientific work on interior lands in New Mexico includes a survey and minor test digging for character, extent, age and cultural relations of sites in Catron county by the Peabody Museum of American Archeology and Ethnology, Harvard; minor excavations in Bandelier national monument by Adams state college, Alamosa; and explorations and collection of fossils in the Pierco and Torreon formations in Rio Arriba and Sandoval counties by the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas.—*Santa Fe New Mexican.*

• • •

What Next for the Navajo . . .

SANTA FE—A newsletter entitled "What Next for the Navajos?" has been issued by the New Mexico Association on Indian Affairs. The letter tells of the interest shown by the whole country in Navajo welfare, and lists the bills introduced in the 80th congress, affecting the Navajo. Some passed one house but in general no final action was taken. "Even authorized appropriations were cut, so the Navajo face another winter little better than the last," the report declares. In the report, readers are asked to communicate with candidates for congress, requesting their support for a long range program for Navajo rehabilitation.—*Santa Fe New Mexican.*

• • •

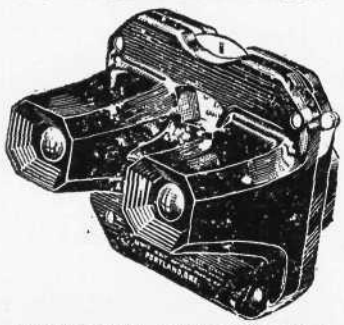
Twenty-Six Years at Zuni . . .

ZUNI — St. Anthony's Indian mission celebrated the 26th anniversary of its founding at Zuni pueblo, September 6. Main feature of the event was to be the dedication of the Sisters convent at the mission. The Rev. Anthony Kroger, O. F. M., who came back to Zuni during August to replace Rev. Bertus Grassman, is the Franciscan missionary who was appointed to establish the Catholic mission at Zuni 25 years ago.—*Gallup Independent.*

NEW FOLDER READY

NOW it's LUCERNE VALLEY, high desert community—center of interesting deposits, near mountains, lakes, fishing, winter sports. Here are all year homesites, egg ranches, alfalfa fields with back drop of majestic peaks. WRITE today for new folder with picture-map, free.
ADDRESS Chamber of Commerce
LUCERNE VALLEY, San Bernardino Co., Calif.

HERE IS A
CHRISTMAS GIFT
EVERYONE WILL ENJOY



VIEW-MASTER

3 Dimension, Full Color Pictures of the Desert and Famous Scenic Spots

VIEWMASTER and 3 Reels of the Desert **$3.00**
(Add 25c for Postage and Packing)

Sorry, No C.O.D. Orders.

BILL Shipler PHOTO
117 SOUTH MAIN
SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH
WRITE FOR FREE REEL LIST

free samples!
of "SOUTH OF THE BORDER" NOTES
AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FILL IN THE COUPON BELOW AND GET YOUR FREE SAMPLES, PRONTO!

COUPON
NAME
STREET
CITY STATE

Mail coupon to
BABCOCK & BOROUGH, Inc.
214 W. GOLD AVE., ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Desert Picture Contest . . .

Any desert photo is eligible in Desert Magazine's monthly contest for amateur and professional photographers. The print with good shadows and highlights, blacks and whites, which best pictures some facet of the wonderful variety of desert attractions will have the best chance of winning.

Entries for this month's contest must be in the Desert Magazine office, Palm Desert, California, by November 20 and winning prints will appear in the January issue. Pictures which arrive too late for one month's contest are entered in the next. First prize is $10; second prize, $5. For non-winning pictures accepted for publication, $3 each will be paid.

HERE ARE THE RULES

1—Prints for monthly contests must be black and white, 5x7 or larger, printed on glossy paper.

2—Each photograph submitted should be fully labeled as to subject, time and place. Also technical data: camera, shutter speed, hour of day, etc.

3—PRINTS WILL BE RETURNED ONLY WHEN RETURN POSTAGE IS ENCLOSED.

4—All entries must be in the Desert Magazine office by the 20th of the contest month.

5—Contests are open to both amateur and professional photographers. Desert Magazine requires first publication rights only of prize winning pictures.

6—Time and place of photograph are immaterial, except that it must be from the desert Southwest.

7—Judges will be selected from Desert's editorial staff, and awards will be made immediately after the close of the contest each month.

ADDRESS ALL ENTRIES TO PHOTO EDITOR, DESERT MAGAZINE

THE Desert MAGAZINE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Protests Land Withdrawal . . .

SANTA FE—State Land Commissioner John E. Miles has written to President Truman, protesting the proposed withdrawal of 33 townships for the permanent expansion of White Sands proving ground. If the million-acre withdrawal is carried out, Miles asks that citizens affected be adequately compensated and the state be accorded the privilege of exchanging its lands within the military corridor for other United States lands "without opposition of other federal land-holding agencies." — *Santa Fe New Mexican.*

• • •

Mastodon Bones Found . . .

SILVER CITY—The fossilized bones of a mastodon reportedly have been discovered east of Silver City by a prospector. Elliot Gillerman, of the U. S. geological survey, said the tusks, teeth and skull fragments have been identified tentatively and may have washed down from the Mogollon mountains. He said the remains probably are of the Tertiary period.—*Gallup Independent.*

• • •

Navajo Garment Industry? . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—The Southwest Indian Superintendents council is studying the proposal of a Southern California garment company to establish a garment-making industry on New Mexico and Arizona Indian reservations. Under the program Indian women would be trained to cut and sew garments and maintain the machines near their homes on a piece-work basis. The women might eventually earn more than $50 a week, the company declared.—*Gallup Independent.*

Big Meteorite at University . . .

ALBUQUERQUE — The 2000-pound meteorite discovered by University of New Mexico scientists in Nebraska this summer is safe on the university campus after a 703-mile trip under the care of Dr. Lincoln LaPaz. The stone was encased in two inches of plaster for its trip. The meteorite will be cut at the university, the major portion remaining in New Mexico while the rest is shipped to the University of Nebraska. In addition to the big stone, said to be twice as large as any stony meteorite previously discovered, the scientists brought back more than 1000 fragments, weighing up to 130 pounds. The stone fell in March and the area of its fall was calculated correctly by the university's Institute of Meteorites.—*Santa Fe New Mexican.*

• • •

Archeological Center . . .

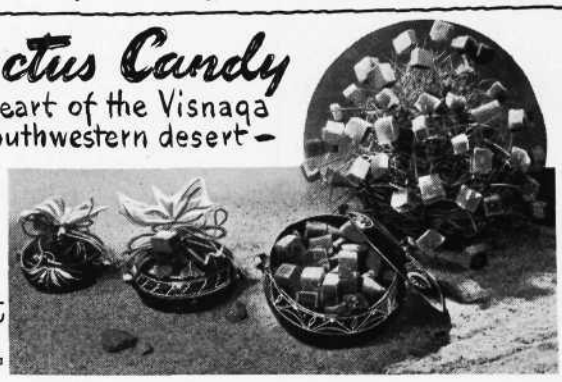
ALBUQUERQUE — Albuquerque, long a tourist attraction, is becoming a center for pick-and-shovel archeologists. The city lies in the center of a 100-mile area known to hold more than 1000 ruins of ancient Indian villages. Five well-known ruins lie within its city limits, turned up by men digging ditches. Another was discovered when workmen were digging adobe to make bricks. And in Tijeras canyon, west of Albuquerque, 40 separate ruins can be seen from one spot, one of them a 90-room mud pueblo.—*Tucson Citizen.*

• • •

Dr. Morley Dies . . .

SANTA FE—Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley, director of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, died on September 2, aged 65. He was the author of an authoritative book on the Mayan civilization and was best known for his specialized work in Mayan hieroglyphics. His translation and interpretation of the symbols is credited in archeological circles with shedding much light on Mayan culture.—*Gallup Independent.*

Rare Cactus Candy
made from the heart of the Visnaga cactus of our Southwestern desert —
gift boxed in quaint Mexican casseroles at $1.95 $2.95 $5.95
Shipped prepaid.
the Sweet mart
615 B san diego, california



RIPPLE DATE GARDENS HARVESTING NEW CROP of FRESH
LUSCIOUS DATES

DEGLET NOOR DATES
Cream of the Desert

Group 1—
PREMIUM QUALITY DATES
15-lb. Flat . . . $8.75
Net Weight
Free Delivery in U.S.A.

Group 2—
SELECT DATES
15-lb. Flat . . . $7.75
Net Weight
Free Delivery in U.S.A.

Group 3—
SOFT, MOIST DATES
15-lb. Flat . . . $6.75
Net Weight
Free Delivery in U.S.A.

15-LB. FLAT — WE SHIP TO YOUR HOME

RIPPLE DATE GARDENS, BOX 277, INDIO, CALIFORNIA
Date Growers, Packers and Shippers Since 1931

UTAH

Alligators in the Green? . . .

VERNAL — Uintah basin is claiming another tourist attraction—alligators. Dale and Normal Merrell reported in August, after their return from the Green river, that they had seen an alligator. "We saw a log floating in the river about three miles north of the Jensen bridge," they declared. "Suddenly the log started upstream. It came out of the water and squealed like a pig." Fishermen and tourists have told of seeing alligators in the river before, but residents are inclined to doubt the reports.—*Vernal Express.*

• • •

Turkey Rustlers Active . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—The Utah Turkey federation has been troubled with turkey rustlers running off their stock. According to Stanley B. Neff, president, the organization has directed its legislative committee to present a program for the branding of Utah turkeys to the state legislative council. —*Salt Lake City Tribune.*

• • •

Pioneer Site Is Marked . . .

MAGNA—Memory of the pioneers who visited the Great Salt Lake 48 hours after they came through Emigration canyon in 1847 has been preserved in bronze with the unveiling of a seven-foot monument at the intersection of Highway 40 and the Black Rock-Sunset Beach roads. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers sponsored the monument, and George A. Little, 80, oldest resident of Magna, represented the pioneer explorers. —*Salt Lake City Tribune.*

• • •

"Museum" Left Hungry . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—"Animal museums" which trap the unwary tourist and fleece him in gambling games have disappeared from Utah's highways, according to Attorney General Grover A. Giles. "As far as my investigators have been able to determine, roadside museums doubling as gambling dens no longer exist," Giles said. In fact, he declared, one operator departed in such a hurry that his "museum"—a mountain lion—was left unfed and unattended at a near-by service station.—*Salt Lake City Tribune.*

• • •

Arches Monument Popular . . .

MOAB—Travel to Arches National monument in August was greater than any previous month, with 599 cars and 1515 people being checked in, according to Russell L. Mahan, custodian. First serious injury to befall a tourist in the monument occurred at the end of August when Oras Krunboltz, reportedly attempting to climb to the top of Wall arch in the Devil's Garden, fell 30 feet, sustaining a broken pelvis and internal injuries.—*Moab Times-Independent.*

• • •

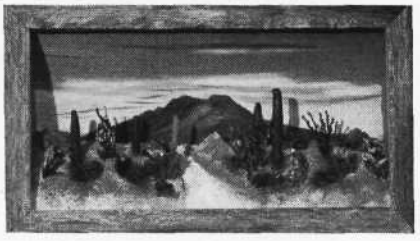
Monument Nearly Finished . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Workers are finishing the granite work on the "This Is the Place" monument at the mouth of Emigration canyon. All horizontal joints are being leaded to exclude water. The planting of lawns and creeping ivy in the two inner ellipses surrounding the monument has been completed. Installation of lighting and the placing of descriptive inscriptions and bronze plaques will complete the great memorial to the first arrival of the Mormons in Salt Lake Valley. — *Salt Lake City Tribune.*

• • •

Mine Could Water 700 Acres . . .

PARK CITY—The Silver King Coalition mine at Park City is pumping enough water to irrigate 700 acres of farm land from its lower levels. The miners encountered a new ore body on the 1960-foot level, but with it came a tremendous flow of water. It took nearly two years and the expenditure of thousands of dollars to lick the water problem on that level. At present a flow of 4600 gallons per minute is being pumped from the 1960 level to the 1300 level where it drains through the Spiro tunnel.—*Times-Independent.*



THE BEAUTIFUL DESERT DIORAMA

THE IDEAL GIFT — sizes 6x8 $3.00, 8x13 $5.00, 10x20 $15.00. "THE SPECIAL" 14x26 at $20.00. All Sahuara cactus framed, natural desert vegetation with "Gems of the Desert" mineral display in foreground.
Satisfaction Guaranteed

DESERT DIORAMA STUDIOS
1225 N. Anita St. in Tucson

FOR SALE
APARTMENT HOTEL AND MOTEL
Coachella, California

EIGHT MODERN APARTMENTS — COOLERS AND HEATERS.
ELEVEN BEDROOMS.
FOUR-ROOM OWNER'S HOME.
SITUATED ON TWO MAIN STREETS.
ONE BLOCK FROM CIVIC CENTER.
BETWEEN PALM SPRINGS AND SALTON SEA.
NEAR ALL AMERICAN CANAL.
SIX LOTS WITH 150 FT. FRONTAGE ON TWO STREETS.
BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED — PALMS AND CITRUS.
$10,000,000 FEDERAL RECLAMATION PROJECT IN CONSTRUCTION IN VICINITY.
HIGH OCCUPANCY RATIO. THE YEAR AROUND, NO POOR MONTHS.
NO COMPETITION.

PRICED TO GIVE 15% ON INVESTMENT

Write or see
Mrs. Gussie Guidotti
Palms Apartment
Coachella, California

Now when you need it most—

LIFE ANEW...at

THE DESERT INN

Here in the enchanted circle of the sun, you'll find new inspiration and renewed energies...golden days of rest and refreshment, or a full round of activity to divert you. 35-acre garden estate, all sports. *No cars needed!*

40th season under original ownership and management of Nellie N. Coffman, Earl Coffman and George Roberson

PALM SPRINGS, CALIF.

DESERT CLOSE-UPS

Ten years ago, Dorothy L. Pillsbury gave up social welfare work in the Los Angeles area and came to New Mexico. Developing an interest in the strong Spanish thread in the population, she took work at the University of New Mexico in Spanish, history and folk lore, then went on to continue the same subjects at the university in Mexico City, Old Mexico. The next year she went to Puerto Rico and the university in San Juan. Buying an adobe on the outskirts of Santa Fe, she settled down to writing and wandering in remote parts of New Mexico and Arizona. She is a contributor to the *Christian Science Monitor, Coronet, Common Ground, Southwest Review, New Mexico Magazine, Westways,* and *Reader's Digest.* Her new story for Desert is "She Sells the Incense of the Pinyon Forest."

John Hilton is back from Sonora, Mexico, with the completed manuscript of a novel based upon Captain Juan Bautista de Anza's historic trek to California in 1775. Part of the book was written in a room where John could look down upon a cobblestone street along which De Anza actually passed on his journey 173 years ago.

• • •

Lois Elder Roy, who wrote the story of Edna Cast for this issue of Desert Magazine is a member of the staff at Palm Desert. Mrs. Roy spent many years of her life at Salome, Arizona, where she published a book of poems, several of which have appeared in Desert. More recently Lois resided in Portland, Maine. In June she and her husband, George, came West from their New England home to join the staff of Desert where Lois is dividing her time between the book shop and the circulation department. Her husband took most of the pictures for the Garden of the Setting Sun story. He is a member of the circulation department.

TO DESERT READERS:

Beginning with our January issue, Desert Magazine will be sold on the newsstands at 35 cents a copy. Subscriptions will be $3.50 a year, two years for $6.00.

You already know the reason for this price increase—you have been hearing it from the butcher, the grocer, the druggist and the other tradesmen from whom you buy merchandise for many months.

So we'll just pass that, and tell you that all Desert's readers, both newsstand buyers and subscribers, are to be given an opportunity to renew their subscriptions for as long as four years in advance if they wish at the old rates.

Under the new rates two years of Desert will cost $6.00. If you are a newsstand buyer, 24 copies will cost $8.40. The rate until January 1 is $5.00 for two years, $10.00 for four years. You may save the difference if you care to do so.

There is a considerable saving in office expense on long term subscriptions, and we are willing to pass this along to our readers—hence this offer to continue the old rates for those who subscribe for two years or more in advance.

If you are now a subscriber, you will find your expiration date on the envelope in which your magazine comes. It is on the addressograph plate which stamps your name.

We have hoped there would be a turning point in the inflationary trend before this price increase would be necessary. But the time has come when there are but two alternatives—sell Desert for a few cents more each month, or reduce the quality. And of course we were unwilling to do that.

We have appreciated the loyalty of Desert's readers, and we hope they will avail themselves of the opportunity to continue their subscriptions at the same rates they were paying before Ol' Man Inflation arrived on the scene.

THE Desert MAGAZINE

Palm Desert, California

REMINDER

(Courtesy Mother Nature)

THE TURN OF SUMMER into fall is Nature's most poignant reminder of another year gone by.

It's a reminder that should make you think, seriously, that you yourself are a year closer to the autumn of your own particular life.

What steps have you taken . . . what plan do you have . . . for comfort and security in those later years?

You *can* have a very definite plan —one that's automatic and *sure.*

If you're on a payroll, sign up to buy U. S. Savings Bonds on the Payroll Plan, through regular deductions from your wages or salary.

If you're not on a payroll but have a bank account, get in on the Bond-A-Month Plan for buying Bonds through regular charges to your checking account.

Do this . . . stick to it . . . and every fall will find you richer by even more than you've set aside. For your safe, sure investment in U. S. Savings will pay you back—in ten years—$100 for every $75 you've put in.

AUTOMATIC SAVING IS SURE SAVING—

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Contributed by this magazine in co-operation with the Magazine Publishers of America as a public service.

The Lapidary Journal

A National Magazine for the Gem Cutter Collector and Silversmith

Some back issues available at 50c each.
Subscription $2.00 per year (6 issues)

P. O. Box 1228 Hollywood 28, Calif.
LELANDE QUICK, Editor and Manager

HAZEN'S FOSSIL MUSEUM

See Fossil Plant and Animal Remains Gems and Minerals For Sale

On Highway U.S. 93-466, ¾ mile west of its junction with U.S. 66 at Kingman, Ariz.

GUY E. HAZEN
Box 695, Kingman, Arizona

NEW! BRAND NEW!
To the Amateur Cutter.
The **"Perfect"** Cabochon Sander

Commercial lapidaries use them. Why shouldn't you?
10" cast aluminum disc. Takes 6", 8" or 10" cloth.
No wasted cloth.
No wetting of cloth.
No loose grits from wetting process.
No wrinkles in cloth.
No waiting for cloth to dry, change from one grit to another in a jiffy.
Cloth lasts much longer.
Most economical sander on the market.

And don't forget we have a large selection of modern jewelry mountings. Now is the time to start making your Christmas presents.

Send for Free Illustrated Price List

ABERCROMBIE'S AGATE SHOP
16505 So. Lakewood Blvd., Bellflower, Calif.
P. O. Box 727

BEFORE YOU BUY ANY LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT—Send for our BIG, FREE 1948 CATALOG

32 Pages packed full of helpful Lapidary Instructions...Should be in every rock nut's library. Plus complete information on the famous Hillquist line of Lapidary Equipment including Hillquist Compact Lap Unit, Hillquist 16" Rock Saw, Hillquist Trim Saw, Hillquist Auto Feed, Hillquist Gem Drill & Hole Saw, Hillquist Facetor, Hillquist Drum Sanders & Hillquist Diamond Saws

Send NOW to Lapidary EQUIPMENT CO.
1545 W. 49 ST. • SEATTLE 7, WASH.
"NATION'S LARGEST MFGRS. OF FINE LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT"

AMATEUR GEM CUTTER

By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

When we first began doing cabochons we turned out some of the world's most original shapes. Many were oval on one side and round on the other. But there is no excuse today for not turning out perfectly shaped cabochons. A number of manufacturers have placed fine templates on the market. These may be purchased reasonably, and crosses, hearts, ovals, rounds and all types of cabochons can be marked with accuracy and cut right to the marked line. Some of these templates have standard millimeter sizes all set up so that later you can purchase a ring, ear ring or brooch setting the size of your gem.

If you mark the rough blank with a pencil the mark will wash away as you grind. It is best to secure a piece of bronze wire at a machine shop, or a piece of aluminum wire, and make a "pencil" by grinding a point on it on your grinder. Go to a hardware store where they sell aluminum clothes line and have the merchant snip off a six-inch length. Straighten it out and grind a point on it and it will last you as a highly satisfactory marker for the rest of your life.

Unless you are going to mount every stone you polish, it is wise to make them large enough so the material can be appreciated in a collection. We seldom do a cabochon less than the size of a quarter if we do not plan to mount it. Then the qualities of the gem can be seen, studied and appreciated. There is no sense in cutting a bunch of cabochons no larger than a lead pencil eraser for a cabochon collection. Expensive material like opal must be salvaged at times no matter how small it cuts. But if one is cutting a piece of snowflake obsidian, for instance, it should be large enough to show several spots and present the full character of the material.

We like the idea of cutting about a dozen cabochons of one kind of material and then forgetting about that material and turning to something else. This enables one to do his own experimenting with various polishing agents and wheels, and make notes of the best results obtained. We also believe it would be good for one's soul to take each dozen cabochons of a material he works on, select only perfect ones to be saved and dispose of the rest, preferably by tossing them away. Why should a collection be cluttered with cracked, pitted, ill shaped gems? Remember that if you show a stone to another lapidary and he says "That's pretty good," it isn't finished. It should be perfect—not "pretty good." We know a man who has thousands upon thousands of cabochons, but you could look for a week among them and find few perfectly done gems.

In the last analysis we suppose the best rule of thumb is "If it satisfies you then it's good." We just hope that some day we will have the moral courage to toss away about half of all the stones we have ever done. Some of them are terrible. It is unreasonable to suppose the first dozen stones a lapidary attempts are going to be perfect, but he usually cherishes them beyond all he ever polishes after that. People will toss away their first poems (never soon enough!), destroy their first paintings and burn their first stories. But no lapidary ever throws his first cabochons at the jackrabbits as he should.

Therefore, if the beginner knows he is going to be different and destroy the first twenty stones he polishes, it is wise to make them from materials secured at a low price. Consult the advertising pages and buy jasper of various colors from the dealers. Wait until you are fairly skilled before purchasing opal and good moss agate.

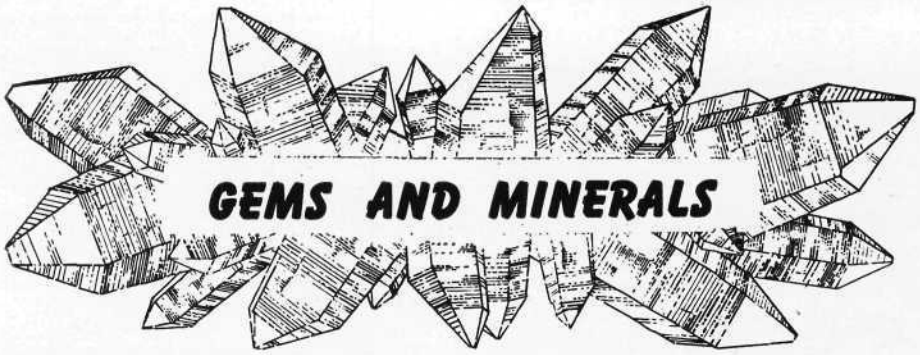
• • •

The old timers are still doing research on polishing agents, but we believe the beginner can forget those problems and stick to tin oxide. Tin oxide is again hard to obtain. During the war it was unprocurable. It just started to loosen when the government recalled all shipments. It again is off the market. Cerium oxide, first mentioned in this column, can be procured freely. It is more expensive but it is better for most materials. Faceters are experimenting with zirconium oxide but our own experience with it has provoked no enthusiasm so far.

As for polishing wheels you can take your choice, but 999 cabochons out of every 1000 can be done on a felt buff. Some things polish a little easier on a leather buff but a beginner, particularly, doesn't need a leather buff to get by. The buff should always be kept covered with a paper sack or a plastic refrigerator bowl cover. The cover should never be removed until the hands and the gem to be polished are washed. Get some grit into the buff and you will have achieved permanent grief and will have scratches on all your gems.

We recently sold our buff to a beginner and now it scratches his gems. "Did you wash the gems before polishing them?" we asked. "No, I didn't," he replied, "I read about doing that but I didn't believe it." One of the best faceters we know recently showed us a large heart he had faceted from smoky quartz. The table was as scratched as a dog with ticks. "I scratched the wax off with my knife," he explained, and added, "You can't scratch quartz with steel—unless it has some carborundum on the blade." Dr. Willems, author of *Gem Cutting* not only washes everything when he goes to the felt buff but he changes his apron! A word to the wise is sufficient.

This page of Desert Magazine is for those who have, or aspire to have, their own gem, cutting and polishing equipment. Lelande Quick, who edits "The Lapidary Journal," will be glad to answer all questions in connection with your lapidary work. And he would like details about new short cuts or devices which lapidary workers have discovered, to pass on to readers. Queries and information should be addressed to Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California.



ORANGE BELT SOCIETY SHOW WILL BE HELD NOV. 6-7

The second annual gem and mineral exhibit of the Orange Belt Mineralogical society will be held November 6-7 in the Citrus By-Products building of the National Orange show at San Bernardino. F. D. Olein, vice-president of the society, is general show chairman and extends its invitation to all rockhounds and potential rockhounds to attend. The show will be entirely an amateurs' hobby exhibit, with no dealers participating.

At last year's Orange Belt show 45 club members exhibited and 2500 visitors signed the register. Several additional members have signified their intention of displaying their collections this year. H. Weston, P. O. Box 605, San Bernardino, is the club secretary.

• • •

DELVERS SOCIETY IS NEW DOWNEY GEM CLUB

Delvers Gem and Mineral society, a new organization, is holding regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p. m. in Downey high school, Downey, California. A field trip a month is planned. The club is the outcome of a summer class in Rocks and Minerals conducted by Darold J. Henry, author of *California Gem Trails*, with the organizing assistance of Lelande Quick. Mr. Mosher is the club's first president; Mrs. Thieme, vice-president; and Mr. Abercrombie, secretary. Edward Flutot is in charge of club publicity.

• • •

MOJAVE CLUB PRESIDENT TELLS SOCIETY HISTORY

Ernest J. McMichael, president of the Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral society, outlined the history of that organization in a talk over the Barstow radio station in August. First meeting of the group was held January 20, 1940, with 42 charter members. The society was incorporated February 6, 1946. Membership at present consists of eight from Daggett, seven from Yermo, two from Hinkley, two from Newberry and 16 from Barstow.

The society is divided into six groups with each member joining the group in which he specializes. The divisions are: crystals, minerals, lapidary, faceting, fluorescence and fossils, with lapidary the most popular. Meetings have been held the first Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in the library of the Barstow union high school, and they are open to the public. Usually a planned field trip is held during the month to one of the many collecting areas in the vicinity of Barstow. All varieties of jasper and agates as well as opal, petrified palms and onyx are found, according to President McMichael, who points out that at all conventions held in California, over one-tenth of the cut and polished specimens come from the Barstow area.

EASTERN ROCK CLUB FEDERATION PLANNED

Plans are under way for an eastern federation of mineralogical and geological societies, with *Earth Science Digest* sending out questionnaires to societies of the area. Groups which have signified their interest in the federation are: Georgia Mineral society; Connecticut Valley Mineral club; Boston Mineral club; Oxford County, Maine, Mineral and Gem association; Queens, New York, Mineral society; Newark Mineralogical society; District of Columbia Mineralogical society; and the New York Mineralogical club.

A meeting will be held in the fall to officially form a regional federation, to draw up a constitution and make plans for a convention in the summer of 1949. Jerome M. Eisenberg, Revere, Massachusetts, is chairman of the preliminary organizing committee. Members of the committee are: A. S. Furcron, Atlanta, Georgia; Curt G. Segeler, New York, New York; and Harry L. Woodruff, Washington, D. C. Ben Hur Wilson and Richard M. Pearl are advisory members.

• • •

OLD BALDY SOCIETY OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

Old Baldy Lapidary society, with members from Glendora, Pomona, San Dimas, LaVerne, Covina and Los Angeles, meets the third Monday of each month at some member's home, at 7:30 p. m. Society membership is limited to 25. Charles R. Zug is president of the group: Dr. John D. Stroud, vice-president; and Harold A. Gehre, Brydon road, LaVerne, California, secretary-treasurer.

Fire Opal - Mexico

10 small pieces—average ½"-¾"—	$1.00
5 larger—average ¾"-1"	1.00
6 still larger—1"-2" or over	2.00
1 small vial clear fire opal	1.50
50 rough mixed Mexican Opals, including honey, cherry, etc., average 1"	1.50

ALL 5 LOTS POSTPAID—$6.00

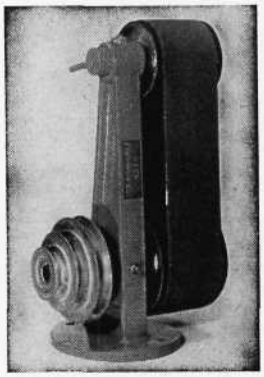
Although these are sold chiefly as cabinet specimens and have plenty of fire, many of them will work up into new cabochons.

Money Cheerfully Refunded if Not Entirely Satisfactory.

Polished Mexican Opals and other gem stone cabochons on approval to responsible persons.

DR. RALPH E. MUELLER
3701 Valentine Road Kansas City 2, Mo.

THE ALTA GEM SANDER
The All Purpose Sander and Polisher



FEATURES
Endless Belts.
Eliminates bumps.
Runs cool with minimum heat.
Resiliency with low and high tension.
Quick change from one belt to another.
Frame—aluminum casting.
Finish — Nassau green.
Price (less belts) $15.50
3 belts 120, 220, 320 Grit ... $1.00
1 Woven Polishing Belt $2.60
Prices F.O.B. Pasadena, California
(California Purchasers add Sales Tax)

Other Lapidary Equipment
New Improved Alta 18 inch power feed diamond slabbing saw. Alta arbor. New Alta Reversible Drill and Hand Drill Presses.

ALTA INDUSTRIES
Lapidary Equipment
Manufacture and Design
915 East Washington Street, Pasadena 6, California

Here Are The Gifts You've Been Looking For!

Petrified Wood, Moss Agate, Chrysocolla, Turquoise, Jade and Jasper Jewelry

HAND MADE IN STERLING SILVER

Bracelets, Rings, Necklaces, Earrings and Brooches

SPECIALLY SELECTED STONES WITH CHOICE COLORS AND PICTURES

Write for Folder with Prices

ELLIOTT'S GEM SHOP
26 Jergins Arcade Long Beach 2, Calif.
Entrance Subway at Ocean and Pine
Open 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. Daily

GEM MART

ADVERTISING RATE
7c a Word —— Minimum $1.00

GOOD MIXED cutting material. Agate, Wood, Rhodonite, Jasper, 5 lbs., $3.00. Al Thrower, P. O. Box 305, Santa Cruz, Calif.

BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN Opal Cabs, 10x8—$3.00 to $7.20. 12x10—$4.80 to $9.00. Opal rough for cutting $1.20 & $2.00. Ace Lapidary, Box 67, Jamaica, New York.

WHEN YOU TRAVEL Sixty-Six Highway, stop at Boodle's place, one mile west of Galena, Kansas. Thousands of fine minerals, Indian relics. Dealers Welcome. Boodle Lane, Box 331, Galena, Kas.

GOOD NEVADA TURQUOISE in the rough, $2.50 oz. any amount. Turquoise cabochons 50c carat. John L. James, Box 379, Battle Mountain, Nev.

FASCINATING MINERALS priced to sell. Catalog free. 25 one-inch labeled minerals $2.00 postpaid. 25 rocks with descriptive labels $1.50 postpaid. Scott Lewis, 2500 N. Beachwood, Hollywood 28, Calif.

BRAZILIAN AGATE, Specimen pieces, also good for coloring, $1.00 a pound. Pieces run from one to ten pounds each. Black Onyx Blanks, 16x12 and 14x12 size—$2.50 dozen. Mail orders filled promptly. JUCHEM BROTHERS, 315 W. 5th St., Los Angeles 13, Calif.

STRIKING GEMS, brilliant minerals, dazzling fluorescents. Highway 91, center of town, next to court house. St. George, Utah. Superior Minerals. (No mail orders until Dec.)

BEAUTIFUL ARIZONA AGATES. Polished samples and listings $2.00. Unpolished samples $1.00. Arizona Agate Mines, Cave Creek, Ariz.

SMOKY QUARTZ CRYSTALS on petrified wood, Arizona, 75c, $1.00, $1.50, $2.00. Unpolished slabs of wood (showing rings) which appears to have been partially dead before beginning to petrify. Linn County, Oregon, $1.50. Dorothy Frey, 124 S. Santa Anita, San Gabriel, Calif.

OREGON PLUME AGATE, from noted Central Oregon gem fields. Finest quality plumes, $1.50 sq. in. Assorted, vari-colored types, $1.00 sq. in.; cabochon sized slabs, 50c each. Small rough chunks, $5.00 lb. Fair warning folks; this Plume is in strong demand and is going, going— Choicest Red Moss Agate $3.00 lb. Other gemmy types of Moss $1.25 lb. From Plume vein, mixed moss and plume, varicolored, 2 lbs. $3.00. Include postage on rough Agate, please. Satisfaction guaranteed. C. G. Springer, 862 Roosevelt Ave., Bend, Ore.

WOULD LIKE to trade minerals with other collectors. Carlton M. Carson, 205 Dalton St., Ventura, Calif.

FAIRY CROSSES or Good Luck Charms, 3 for $1.10. Azurite ½" to ¾" Nodules, 10 for $1.10. Maryann Kasey, Box 968, Bakersfield, California.

MINERAL SETS—24 Colorful Minerals (identified) in 1x1 compartments — Postage paid, $3.50. Prospector's Set of 50 Minerals (identified) in 1x1 compartments in cloth reinforced sturdy cartons. Postage paid $5.75. Elliott's Gem Shop, 26 Jergins Arcade, Long Beach 2, Calif.

ROSE QUARTZ—$1.00 per lb. rough. From finest deposit known. European and Asiatic market before war. Rose Quartz, 283 Wildwood Park, Fort Garry, Man., Canada.

GOOD CUTTING material from Nevada, 5 lbs. $3.50. 10 lbs. $6.00. 10 sq. in. $2.00. 25 sq. in. $4.00. Send for price list on other cutting material, minerals, hand made silver jewelry, etc. John L. James, Box 379, Battle Mountain, Nevada.

MONTANA MOSS AGATES in the rough for gem cutting $1.50 per lb. plus postage. Also Slabbed Agate 25c per sq. in. (Minimum order $1.00). Elliott Gem Shop, 26 Jergins Arcade, Long Beach 2, California.

INDIAN RELICS, Curios, Coins, Minerals, Books, Old Buttons, Old Glass, Old West Photos, Weapons. Catalogue 5c. Lemley Antique Shop, Osborne, Kansas.

ATTENTION ROCK COLLECTORS. It will pay you to visit the Ken-Dor Rock Roost. We buy, sell, or exchange mineral specimens. Visitors are always welcome. Ken-Dor Rock Roost, 419 So. Franklin, Modesto, California.

SPECIAL FOR NOV. & DEC.—One Fluorescent Turitella paperweight $2.50. Two of same $4.50, postpaid. Exclusive pattern. Discount on six or more. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Clay Ledbetter, 2126 McKenzie, Waco, Texas.

MISSOURI Barite Crystals, single subtransparent terminated, ½ to ¾, 1, 1¼, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 20c, 25c, 35c, 55c, 75c, $1.00, $1.50. Crystal groups, translucent to subtransparent well developed crystals, 2x2, 2x3, 3x3, 3x4, $1.25, $2.00, $2.75, $3.50. Illinois fluorite octahedral cleavages, 1", 75c, 1½", $1.00, yellow or purple. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Postage extra. Larger specimens available of all. Alvin Kamp, Jackson, Missouri.

GEM MATERIALS — Arizona Petrified Woods from beautiful reds to jet black, 20c inch. Some nice chunks for bookends, etc., at 75c pound. AGATES. New find, Escadillo agate, bluish translucent, clear or banded. Cameo agate, opaque, red and brown coloring with fossil-like trees and plants. Fine golden moss. All of above 15c inch, 75c pound. Beautiful red and golden moss at 20c inch, $1.00 pound. Amythest agate, 25c inch. Baker Ranch eggs $1.00 pound. Indian lucky stones, 10c each, $1.00 dozen. Send for list and prices, 2½% tax in California. Satisfaction guaranteed. Sequoia Gem and Mineral Shop, 321 West Tulare Avenue, Visalia, California.

AGATE FOR SALE—We have Red and Black Plume, Blue and Pink Banded, and many kinds of Moss Agates. All at our ranch at Alpine, Texas, or write J. A. Anderson, Box 182, Alpine, Texas.

HAVE YOUR FAVORITE Cabochons mounted in hand-made sterling or 10K gold mountings. Old prices still in effect. Satisfaction guaranteed. Your correspondence invited. K. K. Brown, Beaver, Utah.

ATTENTION DEALERS and cutters. "Flowering Obsidian" at wholesale rates. This is all highgrade cutting material. It is select and cuts with a minimum of waste. 30 lbs. at $7.50. W. T. Rogers. 1230 Parkway Ave., Salt Lake City 6, Utah.

MINERAL SPECIMENS — Micro-mount and Thumb-nail sizes: write today for free list. J. E. Byron, Mining Engineer, 1240 Pearl Street, Boulder, Colorado.

AT THE DESERT RAT'S NEST—Coober pedy opal, pinpoint and blue fire (10 carat anthill garnets, will wholesale smaller grades), cut and uncut moonstones, Ceylon. All Brazilian facet material in stock. A new blue sapphire up to 10 carats, flawless. Australian and Siam uncut zircons, Burma rubies, Tasmania white zircons, Queensland sapphire. Geo. W. Chambers, P. O. Box 1123, Encinitas, Calif. Visitors inquire at Kizer's filling station, corner 101 and F St. for address.

TEXAS AGATE—The best from many beds. A generous assortment postpaid for $10. El Paso Rock & Lapidary Supply, 2401 Pittsburg St., El Paso, Texas. Phone M-4840.

MINERAL SPECIMENS, slabs or material by the pound for cutting and polishing, RX Units, Felker Di-Met Saw Blades, Carborundum wheels, Cerium Oxide, Preform Cabochons, Indian jewelry, neck chains. Be sure and stop. A. L. Jarvis, Route 2, Box 350, Watsonville, California, 3 miles S. on State highway No. 1.

MINERALS, GEMS, COINS, Bills, Old Glass, Books, Stamps, Fossils, Buttons, Dolls, Weapons, Miniatures, Indian Silver Rings and Bracelets. Also Mexico. Catalogue 5c. Cowboy Lemley, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

SEND ME $3.00 and receive in return a nice selection of Colorado mineral specimens. Ask for list and prices of the many beauties now in stock. Jack The Rock Hound, P. O. Box 86, Carbondale, Colo.

FORTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD world wide collection. More than one hundred thousand rare mineral specimens released for sale. Will ship to dealer. Satisfaction guaranteed. E. E. Thomas, Box 78, Jamestown, Calif.

FOR THE BEST in New Mexico Agate visit or write James T. Lawyer, Industrial Minerals, 923 W. Birch, Deming, New Mexico.

BEAUTIFUL AGATE from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona Petrified Wood, colors and pictures. Agates in Red Moss, Golden Moss, Black Banded. Red Banded, Red and Black Banded, Carnelian, Moss Jaspers. Many colors in many patterns. Let me send you some of this Agate or Wood, every inch will make a gem. 15c per sq. in., will assort. Minimum order $1.50. Money back if not satisfied. Approximate postage please. We also have a nice selection of Chrysocolla, Malachite and Copper specimens. Make your next rock hunting trip in our yard. Good cutting material as low as 35c per lb. Tons to select from. Come any time. Geo. C. Curtis, The Agate Man, 645 1st St., Hermosa Beach, Calif.

FIFTY MINERAL SPECIMENS, ¾" or over, boxed, identified, described, mounted. Postpaid $4.00. Old Prospector, Box 21B172, Dutch Flat, Calif.

BRIGHTEN THEIR CHRISTMAS with a rare, colorful, Eastern Mineral. Visit the Erskine Collection. 307 Rosemont St., La Jolla, Calif. Mail Order Special: a 3x3 specimen of clear green Muscovite studded with 2 or more transparent red Spessartite Garnets, only 50c postpaid.

SPECIMENS SPECIAL—Your pick, 3 for $1.00. Turquoise, Jasper, Chrysocolla, Geodes, Oregon, Mint Canyon, Hauser beds, Utah Grapes, Bloodstone, Hematite, Howlite, Tiger Eye, Jade, Beach Agates, Rhodonite, Petrified Palm, Petrified Wood, Iron Pyrite, Amethyst Quartz, Quartz Crystals, Apache Teardrops, Wulfenite, Mimetite, Dioptase, Chrysoprase, Vesuvianite, Martite, Sweetwater Agates, Azurite nodules, Fluorites, Boothite, Vanadinite, Goethite, Variscite, Montana Moss Agate, Horse Canyon Agate, Perlite, Garnets, Peridot, Topaz. Last three small, others, you will be surprised at their size. We pay postage on $5.00 or over. 1 of each, postpaid, $10.00. Morton Minerals & Mining, 453 E. Garvey Blvd., El Monte, Calif.

CACTUS BLOOM AGATE—This new multi-character, picture producing gem material has blossoms, mosses and plumes. The figures are bright red, yellow and black in various sky backgrounds of transparent blue to opaque pink and white. One deal we ship you a 25 square inch assortment of slabs polished to a minor finish for $5.00. The polished surface exposes all flaws, facilitates gem layout and takes the guess out of what you are looking at. The assortment is as exciting as a successful field day to the cutter and a real addition to the collector's cabinet. Satisfaction guaranteed. Petrified Wood Products Co., Box 8, Kingman, Arizona.

C. C. Boak of Tonopah reports that he has received a letter from Ceylon which claims that a white sapphire weighing 212 pounds has been discovered there. Boak's correspondent, K. N. Meera, has disposition of the stone and hopes to interest some large museum.

• • •

September meeting of the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral society was to be a "Kid's Night," with a children's hobby show featured.

AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

"The Unusual in Gems and Jewelry" was to be the subject of a talk by George M. Parker at the September meeting of the Hollywood Lapidary society. At the August meeting an open forum was held and Art Tanner brought up the question of cutting star quartz. Walt Shirey and Mr. Arnold explained methods which they had found satisfactory. August field trip was to Corona del Mar where 17 members and ten guests collected cutting material.

• • •

Dr. Gordon E. Oakeshott of the California division of mines was on the September program of the Los Angeles Lapidary society. Dr. Oakeshott, formerly of Compton junior college, spoke on the geology of the Barstow area of the Mojave desert, telling why, where and how to locate minerals, fossils and cutting rock. Annual rockhound picnic was planned for October 24 at Oak Grove park, Pasadena, where the society hoped to meet rockhound friends from other gem and mineral societies. All rockhounds were invited to attend, bring a lunch and stay all day. Dr. Willems, author of *Gem Cutting*, is scheduled to speak at the November 1 meeting and demonstrate how a beginner can cut perfect facets with potatoes.

• • •

August issue of the *Newsletter* of the State Mineral Society of Texas, Austin, Texas, contains a further account of the peregrinations of the club president, J. J. Brown, including the story of a trip into Mexico and his adventures purchasing minerals there. "We consider every rockhound in the state of Texas our friend," President Brown declares, "and whether you join our little state society or not, you are still our friend." The Texas *Newsletter* is unique among rockhound publications.

• • •

The Minnesota Mineral club of Minneapolis planned a field trip September 18-19 to Gooseberry Falls state park where agates, agate and quartz-lined geodes, thompsonite, lintonite, anorthite, mesolite and other zeolites were to be collected. The trip was to be made to acquaint new members with the area and to show them what and how to collect. Officers of the Minnesota group are: president, Edwin M. Lambert; vice-president, Mrs. Wm. L. Cooper; secretary, Mrs. Chas. T. Heller, 538 St. Peter Street, St. Paul, Minnesota; treasurer, Percy A. Brown; trip director, J. W. Bingham; program director, H. T. Perry; publicity director, B. E. Martin.

• • •

M. J. Beal of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing company was the speaker for the September meeting of the San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem society of North Hollywood. He discussed the use of abrasive papers relative to grinding and polishing of gem stones. He explained a method of depositing the grain on the paper or belts which assured there would be no high points to scratch the work.

• • •

Ranger R. F. Drvege was to give a short talk at the September 13 meeting of the Kern County Mineral society of Bakersfield, and show a picture on the wild life in our national parks. Sixty-five members and their friends attended the July picnic in Hart's park, and 45 made the trip up Kern canyon to Godby's in August.

Raymond C. McIver told the Texas Mineral society of Dallas about a 6500 mile vacation trip, at the September meeting. McIver described the rockhounds he had met in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Colorado and showed colored films he had taken on the trip.

• • •

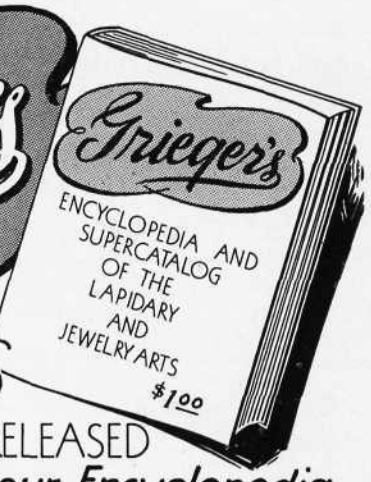
Mrs. Doris Baur highlighted the September meeting of the Santa Monica Gemological society with a talk, "Birthstones, Fact and Fancy." She described the uses of gemstones by the ancients and told of superstitions which in some cases are still held. Field trip for September was to Point Dume in search of quartz crystals.

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley made a field trip recently to the Berkeley hills for nodules, geodes and agates. A morning's digging uncovered many specimens and two rattlesnakes.

• • •

Gem Village, Bayfield, Colorado, participated in the Four Corners rock show in Durango and came back home with a number of ribbons. Visitors at Bayfield were invited to contact Mrs. Lottie M. Shipley, Shipley's Mineral House, at Gem Village two miles west of Bayfield, or Eddie and Doris Neuenschwander of the Colorado Gem Company at the same locality.

Grieger's



EXCITING News

ON SEPTEMBER 15TH WE RELEASED

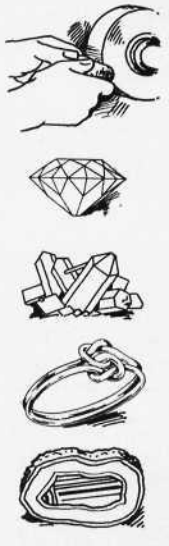
The New 1948 Edition of our Encyclopedia and Super Catalog of the Lapidary & Jewelry Arts

THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA IS A HANDSOME VOLUME OF NEW AND VALUABLE INFORMATION INCLUDING MUCH THAT HAS NEVER BEFORE APPEARED IN PRINT.

• IT IS AN OUTSTANDING NEW BOOK - NOT A CATALOG • NEITHER TIME, COST OR RESEARCH HAVE BEEN SPARED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF USEFULNESS AND SCOPE. IT SUGGESTS THINGS TO DO - THE MOST APPROVED METHODS OF DOING THEM AND IS FILLED WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS DESIGNED TO FULFILL YOUR EVERY REQUIREMENT.

HERE "IN A GEODE" IS WHAT THE ENCYCLOPEDIA CONTAINS. VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS ON ALL PHASES OF GEM CUTTING PROCEDURES BY SUCH NATIONALLY KNOWN AUTHORS AS - HOWARD - BAXTER - VAN LEUVEN - PEARL AND MERZ. YOU WILL FIND A COMPLETE ARRAY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATIVE BOOKS ON GEM CUTTING AND JEWELRYCRAFT WITH AN EXTENSIVE SECTION ON MINERAL SPECIMENS AND IDENTIFICATION. MATERIALS, TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND ALL THE MAJOR LINES OF LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUCH FAMOUS NAMES AS HILLQUIST - HIGHLAND PARK - VRECO - COVINGTON - ALLEN - FELKER - ORCUTT AND POLY PRODUCTS ARE DISPLAYED IN DETAIL.

WE SUPPLY RUF GEM MATERIAL AND PREFORMS A GREAT CONVENIENCE AND SAVING TO THE GEM WORKER •



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AND SUPER CATALOG IS 9"×12" IN SIZE, CONTAINS 160 PAGES AND HAS A SEWED BACK BINDING WITH A PLASTIC LAMINATED COVER. YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BUY SO MUCH FOR A DOLLAR. OUR FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CATALOG PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1947, TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS SUPPLEMENTS THAT COMPRISE 80 PAGES 9"×12", IS AVAILABLE FOR 35¢.

IN CASE YOU ORDER THE ENCYCLOPEDIA DO NOT ORDER THE 35¢ CATALOG

Grieger's

1633 EAST WALNUT STREET
PASADENA 4, CALIFORNIA.
PHONE SY.6-6423

OPEN ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY 8:30AM-5:30 PM-
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Columbine Gem and Mineral society of Salida, Colorado, made a field trip to the Leadville area on July 25. Twenty-three rockhounds collected pyrite specimens and quartz crystal groups at the Ibex mine. After filling their sacks, the collectors went to the timberline where coffee was made over a camp fire and a picnic lunch enjoyed. Visiting rockhounds in the area were invited to get in touch with Mrs. Louis Perry, Poncha Springs, Colorado or Mrs. Frank Clark, Highway 50 at G Street, Salida, Colorado.

• • •

Beginning October 1 and continuing through May, the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, Phoenix, will meet the first and third Friday of each month in the Assembly Hall, 1736 W. Van Buren Street. All visiting rockhounds are invited to attend the meetings.

HAROLD D. MARYOTT & CO.

Miami, Arizona

WESTERN JEWELRY

Wholesale Only

NEW FACETING MATERIAL

Aquamarine, Citrine, Topaz, Amethyst and Smoky Quartz
Lapidary Equipment and Supplies
Sheet Silver, Trim and Findings
Write for Lists

S-T GEM & MINERAL SHOP

6924 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, Calif.

MINERAL IDENTIFICATION SIMPLIFIED

By O. C. SMITH, A.B., A.M.
2nd Revised Edition
Price $3.50
Plus Tax in California

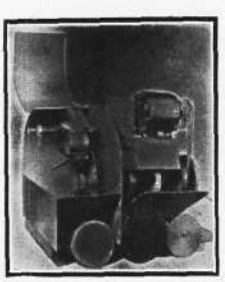
IDENTIFICATION AND QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MINERALS

By O. C. SMITH, A.B., A.M.

300 minerals, 120 Blowpipe tests, 40 Bead tests and the response to Ultra-Violet light all shown in finest full color.

Price $6.50
Plus Tax in California

Order from — O. C. SMITH - Dept. D
5157 Santa Ana St. — Bell, California
or Your Local Dealer



RX-47

A COMPLETE LAPIDARY SHOP IN ONE SMALL MACHINE

The Most Practical Ever Devised for Gem Cutting and Polishing

Send for Circular A

RX LABORATORY

1317 Seaman Ave. El Monte, Calif.

Paul Lindau showed several reels of his colored nature pictures at the August meeting of the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral society held at the Trona club. September meeting was set aside as children's night with a hobby show, games and entertainment. Election of officers was planned for the October meeting, with the annual mineral show to be held October 23-24 at Trona.

• • •

September meeting of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Carey. Mrs. H. T. Daniels was to speak on "Rocks of Arkansas and Kansas." August issue of the *Sooner Rockologist*, official publication of the society, carries an article on geodes along the Fox river in Clark county, Missouri and the Keokuk, Iowa, area by Othe Hagerman.

• • •

Officers of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California elected for 1948-49 are: president, A. G. Ostergard; vice-president, Don George; secretary, Mrs. Leona Robbins, 928 E. Hellman Avenue, Monterey Park, California; treasurer, John A. Quinn; directors, H. Stanton Hill, P. E. Linville, Jack Streeter, Pauline Saylor, Vic Robbins, Dorothy Ostergard and Louis Vance. First fall meeting of the society was scheduled for the Pasadena public library, September 13, with A. G. Ostergard speaking on "Mineral Collecting in Old Mexico." The talk was to be illustrated with slides from the collections of the speaker and W. Stewart, E. Calvert and J. Rodekohr. The society announces that a non-credit course in mineralogy, geology and determination of gem stones is being offered by the extended day division of Pasadena city college on Tuesdays from 7 to 10 p. m., starting September 14.

• • •

August meeting of the Sequoia Mineral society was held in the Selma park with 58 in attendance. Discussions were held on plans to ask for the state federation convention, possibly in 1950. Bill Wedel of Dinuba showed pictures. Elmer E. Geese, aged 79, editor of the *Sequoia Bulletin*, passed away while at a camp in Trinity, in northern California, the society bulletin reports.

• • •

Mineral and Gem News of the Rocky Mountains, official bulletin of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral societies, Lewis W. Heister, editor, is providing invaluable service for traveling rockhounds by publishing names and addresses of specific members of the various societies who can be contacted by visitors in their areas.

• • •

During World War II, German and Italian prisoners at Camp Irwin in the Mojave did rock cutting and polishing as a hobby, according to Ernest J. McMichael, president of the Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral society, and hundreds of pounds of gem quality rock were collected and shipped by the United States government from Barstow to Tucson, Arizona, and other prisoner of war camps. Many of the fields from which these specimens came are still closed to collectors or have been taken over again by the government.

• • •

Francis Sperison was to speak on "The Problem of the Imitation Gem Stone in Jewelry from Ancient to Modern Times" at the September 15 general meeting of the Northern California Mineral Society, Inc., to be held at the main public library, San Francisco. The lecture was to be illustrated with slides on internal structure and inclusions in imitation, artificial and natural gem stones. A complete assortment of gem materials was to be on display. Mr. Sperisen has 25 years experience as a gem cutter and is a recognized authority on gem stones.

• • •

An illustrated travelogue given by Jessie Hardman was the feature planned for the August meeting of Long Beach Mineralogical society at Belmont Recreation center, 4104 Allin Street. Slides of Mexico, Panama, Hawaii, China, Ceylon, Suez and Tangiers were to be shown. August field trip was to be a potluck picnic at Brea canyon. The club planned a class in mineralogy to be conducted by Mr. Wheatfield of City college, if at least 20 members signed up.

Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Shop . . .

On Highway 91, 11 Mi. East of Barstow
One Mile West of Yermo, Calif.
E. W. Shaw, P. O. Box 363, Yermo, Calif.

LABRADORITE

"CANADA'S WONDER GEM MATERIAL"

We are pleased to announce that we have been chosen agents for the United States by Mr. Lloyd T. Mewburn, Banff, Canada.

This material is unsurpassed for opalescence showing the Butterfly Blue, Reddish Gold and Yellow.

Labradorite has always been in big demand because of its scarcity.

WE OFFER . . .

1 lb. $2.50
10 lbs. or over—per lb. 2.35
25 lbs. or over—per lb. 2.20
All orders F.O.B. Long Beach, Calif.

DEALERS ATTENTION . . .

Write for wholesale prices on this proven material.

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays

GORDON'S
GEM & MINERAL SUPPLIES

1850 E. Pacific Coast Highway
LONG BEACH 6, CALIFORNIA

Phone 738-56

PACIFIC MINERAL SOCIETY CHANGES MEETING PLACE

The Pacific Mineral Society, Inc., of Los Angeles has changed its meeting date to the second Wednesday of each month and its meeting place to the Eleda restaurant, 4296 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles. Ralph Merrill, chemical analyst for the American Potash and Chemical company of Trona, outlined the history, geology and mineralogy of the Searles lake area at the September meeting of the society. He stated that there are 17 identified non-metallic minerals found in the lake bed: halite, hanksite, trona, tincal, glaserite, sulphohalite, thenardite, burkeite, nahcolite, gaylussite, pirssonite, northrupite, tychite, searlesite, glauberite, mirabilite and realgar.

• • •

CALIFORNIA MINES DIVISION IDENTIFIES MINERALS

Samples, limited to two at a time, of any mineral found in California may be sent to the Division of Mines, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California, for identification and classification, free of charge. No assays or quantitative determinations will be made, nor will samples from outside the state be identified. Samples should be in lump form if possible and marked plainly with the name of the sender on the outside of the package. No samples will be received unless delivery charges are prepaid. A letter should accompany the sample, giving the locality where the mineral was found and the nature of the information desired.

• • •

The San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem society had Mrs. D. H. Clark of Redlands as its guest speaker, September 15. Mrs. Clark, president of the Orange Belt society, displayed over 100 pieces of polished petrified wood and several pieces of fire opal. She gave a general description of the localities from which several of the best specimens were collected, interposing humorous incidents which occurred during her hunt for them. Dr. Niles Reeves showed a replica of a clock which he had made from petrified wood. The face was polished opalized wood set on a base of ironwood with a natural formation of hands in white agate.

• • •

September meeting of the Pomona Valley Mineral club was held in the chemistry building of Pomona college. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Allard of Huntington Park spoke on "The History of Minerals, Mineral Oddities and Fluorescents." Mr. Allard showed slides while Mrs. Allard gave the lecture. Two projectors were used with the fluorescent slides, the mineral being shown first in its natural state, then fluorescing. The Pomona society furnished a display case of specimens, faceted stones, cabochons and mineralogy books at the Los Angeles county fair, September 17-October 3, with members contributing some of their prizes for exhibition.

• • •

Mason K. Banks, president of the Southern Appalachian Mineral society, has invited the Georgia Mineral society to join his group for a field trip to the vicinity of Franklin in Macon county. Rubies are said to occur there on Cowel creek, where they have been mined. Sapphires have been found at Corundum hill, and rhodolite garnets and amethysts also have been obtained from this locality. The Southern Appalachian society recently visited the Shelby-Kings Mountain area where they collected barite, and cassiterite. The society has 45 members.

• • •

The annual dinner of the Georgia Mineral society of Atlanta was planned for the dining hall of Georgia Tech university on October 4. Officers for 1948-49 are: president, Captain Garland Peyton; vice-president, William A. Gussow; secretary, Charles A. Wilkins; treasurer, S. P. Cronheim, corresponding secretary, Samuel C. Knox; historian, Dr. Frank Daniel.

• • •

The practical uses of gypsum were stressed by Prescott Kay of the Mineral Materials company at Henderson, Nevada, at the August lecture meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern Nevada, Inc. He explained the part this agricultural mineral plays in soil conservation where it prevents erosion, retains moisture and makes the soil more friable. August field trip of the society was to the bureau of mines office at Boulder City, Nevada, where C. T. Baroch and H. A. Heller acquainted members with the objects of the pilot plants set up there. Baroch explained the work done by the bureau with electrolytic manganese and chromium, as well as new processes for low-grade western zinc ores.

• • •

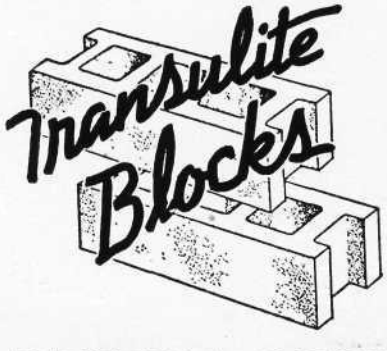
Second annual Rock-Hobby show of the Four Corners Rock club, held in Durango, Colorado, August 6-8, was attended by 5000 visitors. The society entered a float in the Spanish Trails fiesta, held at the same time. Four Corners club has occupied its new clubhouse in Brookside park, and welcomes all out of town visitors at its meetings, the first Monday and second Thursday evenings of every month. Visitors also can contact the society president, Merle E. Smith, 2140 W. Second Avenue, Durango.

ROCK COLLECTORS ATTENTION—As you drive Highway 111 look for the
TRAILER ROCK STORE
I carry the finest variety of Rock and Mineral specimens in the West. REMEMBER I have NO private collection so everything is for sale.
THE ROCKOLOGIST (Chuckawalla Slim)
Box 181 Cathedral City, Calif.

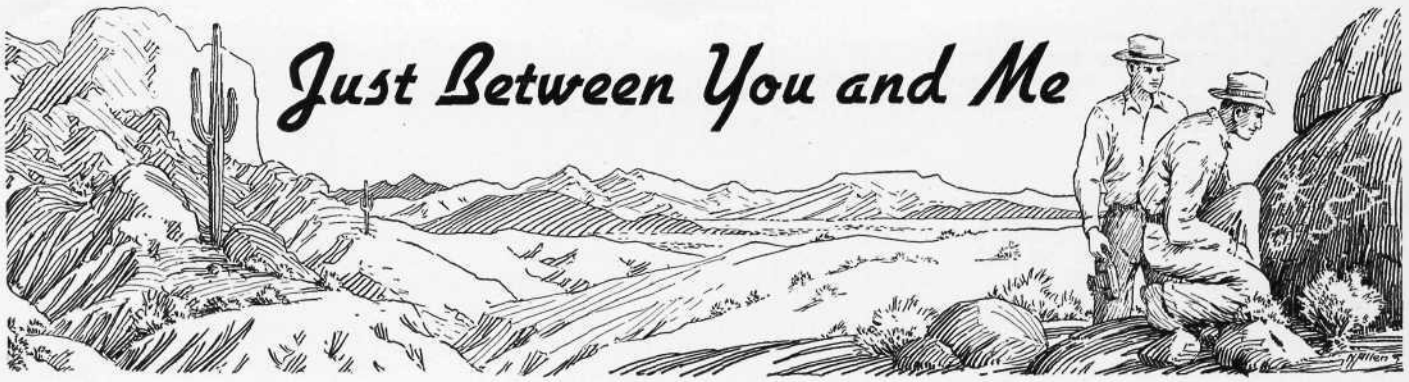
CHOICE CABOCHON MATERIAL
Fine crystalled minerals.
Mineralight and fluorescent minerals.
MINERALS UNLIMITED
1724 University Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.
"Selections personal as your own"

GEM VILLAGE
The First Rockhound Colony
Here you will find anything you may want in Gems, Gem materials, Cut stones, Jewelry, Specimens, Books, Antiques, Stamps, Old coins, Indian artifacts, etc.
You will find our dealers honest, reliable, courteous and glad to help. We ship on approval to responsible parties. Our organization guarantees satisfaction in every way. Come and see us, stay if you can. Only four good building lots left. One lot with dwelling and shop. Write for information to—
Frank Morse, Bayfield, Colo.

Permanent Gold embossed binders for
DESERT
These easy-to-insert binders are made especially for Desert Magazine readers who want to preserve the maps and other travel information for future use.
They open flat, and each binder has space for 12 magazines.
Mailed postpaid for $1.50
THE Desert MAGAZINE
Palm Desert, Calif.



PUMICE BLOCKS
CINDER BLOCKS
GRAY CINDER
RED CINDER
DESERT DESIGNED . . .
for maximum insulation and light weight. Precision built, accurately square. In natural colors for any background or architectural design. For commercial and residential construction, garden walls, fireplaces, barbecues—adaptable for Class "A" construction.
Immediate delivery anywhere on the desert. For descriptive literature write—
TRANSULITE BLOCK COMPANY
3464 E. FOOTHILL BLVD., PASADENA, CALIF. —or— BOX 186, CORONA, CALIF.
Phone Sycamore 38133 Phone Corona 781 or 311
EL CENTRO ADDRESS: 1000 North 4th Street — Phone El Centro 71



Just Between You and Me

By RANDALL HENDERSON

WHEN one of Desert's readers a few months ago put himself on record in the "Letters" page of this magazine as an opponent of state border inspection as now conducted, he really started something. Since that letter appeared, a steady barrage of letters both pro and con have been coming to the editorial desk.

According to the office score board the pro-inspection writers have sent in the most letters. But while the opponents of inspection are lagging in numbers, they are more than holding their own in the lavish use of uncomplimentary adjectives.

Thank heaven this is good old USA where folks can write and say what they please about government inspectors. I am not violently partisan in this controversy although I will confess it put quite a strain on my sense of humor when, meandering back and forth across the Colorado river, those pesky inspectors insisted on scrutinizing the same bag of grapefruit four times in one day.

But I would rather have it that way than live in a country where they would send me to a Siberian concentration camp for saying what I thought about it.

• • •

Perhaps if the border inspectors would borrow an idea recently initiated at Mesa, Arizona, they wouldn't be so unpopular. The folks in Mesa set aside one day in which every car bearing an out-of-state license was stopped at the city limits and each of the occupants served with a glass of citrus juice.

• • •

The desert lowlands put on their annual color show in late winter and early spring when the wildflowers present a gorgeous panorama of reds and blues and yellows and whites, depending on the amount of rain.

The desert highlands also have their color parade—but it comes in the autumn. The brilliant hues appear in the mountains after the first frosts when the aspen leaves turn to red and yellow and brown. Blended with the green of the fir and spruce which grow beside them, the aspens present a lovely pattern. It is a picture that makes us all wish we were artists so we could transfer the landscape to canvas and have it with us always.

In New Mexico many of the communities organize Aspencades during October and long caravans wind up the mountain roads to where the aspen forests are found. Humans learn more appreciation of art in one such day than in a whole semester at school. For Nature is the greatest artist of all.

• • •

If my old prospector friends Frank Coffey and Gus Lederer and Tommy Jones were living today I am afraid they would have to start learning their profession all over again. The pick and pan and mortar they used in their quest for gold were useful tools for the purpose—but gold is no longer the primary goal of the prospecting fraternity.

Uranium, and more recently titanium, have given new incentive to the search for precious ores. These metals call for new tools—the ultra-violet lamp and the Geiger counter. The importance of uranium already is well known. The value of titanium, one of the basic chemical elements, is just being recognized. At the DuPont laboratories it has been found to be less than twice the weight of aluminum and as strong as stainless steel—and it is said to be the seventh most common among all the metals of the earth. There is more titanium than copper or silver or lead.

The desert country has been very thoroughly combed for gold and silver and copper and lead during the last 100 years. It appears now that prospectors armed with a lamp and a counter may find it profitable to go back and reexamine the hills and ranges and perhaps make new strikes in rock which they once discarded as worthless.

• • •

And while we are on the subject of prospecting, the ore-hunters are not the only persons who find wealth in this desert region. I am sure no gold bonanza ever brought greater happiness to its owner than does the discovery of a rare flower or shrub to Edmund C. Jaeger or Mary Beal or Philip Munz.

For after all, the value of things is not in their physical content, but in the wealth they create in terms of enlightened human satisfaction. The gold we find pays off in more or less superficial pleasures. The beauty we discover or create brings reward in a deep personal satisfaction that cannot be bought with money.

Oh, I would not discourage the prospecting for gold or uranium or titanium. Those things make a contribution to the usefulness of our lives. But Gus Lederer, the old prospector of Corn springs, is remembered and honored not for the claims he staked out, but for the pictures he painted in his spare hours and passed around to his friends. They were crude according to artistic standards—but they were an expression of the best in Gus. I am sure Gus derived a thousand times more pleasure from his paint brush than from his pick.

THE SKY RULES IN OUR SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS

"In New Mexico whatever is both old and peculiar appears upon examination to have a connection with the arid climate. Peculiarities range from the striking adaption of the flora onwards to those of the fauna, and on up to those of the human animal." That was the basic thesis which Ross Calvin stated in SKY DETERMINES, first published 14 years ago.

Today a new edition of this Southwestern classic, beautifully illustrated, composed and bound, has been published by the University of New Mexico press. In the foreword Dr. Calvin declares that his thesis remains unchanged — reinforced, rather — by the happenings of the years between. The author, who came to the desert for reasons of health, became interested in the desert plants. "Then one day a brain cell must have opened," he says, "for the thought occurred to me that if plant life in the desert had been forced to adapt itself to aridity or else perish, the same must be true in greater or less degree of animal life also." From that thought came one of the most eloquently written interpretations of the Southwest, a book that is essential to those who would understand the desert country.

The sky determines the desert by excess of heat and insufficiency of rainfall, it determines the function of the mountains in the general economy of nature, it determines the extent and kind of forestation. The sky determined the mode of life of the ancient peoples, decided the policy of the Conquistadores and the economic development of the Mexicans. Roads and trails depended upon water supplies and they were determined by the sky, and so was the length of Apache warfare, and so was the fact that New Mexico is a land of ranches.

In SKY DETERMINES, history, legend, scientific fact and personal observation are woven into a pattern which will bring to the reader a deeper understanding of the great unity of nature. The book is illustrated by the well-known Southwestern artist, Peter Hurd.

University of New Mexico press, Albuquerque, 1948. 333 pps. index, bibliography. $3.50.

• • •

THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF DATES ON THE DESERT

The history of the date from Biblical times to the present complicated "big business" of growing, harvesting and packing in our own desert country is fascinating. Wayland A. Dunham tells the story in IT'S A DATE. The new book features the Coachella valley area, and the introduction and propagation of dates in America. But there are bits of fact and legend from the old days, from Arabia and the ancient world.

One learns, for example, that a favorite dish of Mohammed was dates filled with nut meats, dipped in egg batter, dusted with bread crumbs and diced nuts and fried in deep fat. Which sounds as if the Prophet didn't fare so badly in his diet. And for those who are interested in dates as food there is a section of recipes for cookies, candies, frostings and fillings, salads and other items which sound most appetizing.

Types of dates grown in the valley are listed and defined, together with the names of the countries where they originated. The definitions of various terms used in the date industry are given. The story of a date plantation is told from the point of view of one buying and developing a garden. The reader is taken through purchase of the land, planting, irrigation, fertilizing, cultivation, pollination, protection against weather and natural enemies, harvesting and packing.

Material on the history of the valley and the Salton sea and a chapter on the tourist attractions of the area are included.

Publication Press, Pasadena, 1948. 159 pps., map endpapers, photographic illustrations, $2.50.

• • •

RICHARD PEARL TELLS THE STORY OF THE GEMS

The fascination of gems goes beyond the dawn of antiquity to the very beginnings of the human race, Richard M. Pearl declares in POPULAR GEMOLOGY. Even a bird will pick up bits of brightly colored twigs and twine in preference to somber ones to build its nest. Dr. Pearl's new book was written to provide the general reader with the most recent accurate knowledge of gems, presented in understandable language. Completed since World War II, it includes the new scientific and industrial uses of natural and artificial gems.

There are chapters on the lure of gems, recognizing gems, faceted gems, cabochon and carved gems, gems of the silica group, gems with a genealogy (pearl, coral, amber and jet), man-made gems and luminescent gems. Many of the species are illustrated with excellent photographs, and the processes of diamond recovery and finishing are shown in a photographic series.

Descriptions of the precious and semi-precious stones are arranged according to the system of classification introduced in the seventh edition of Dana's *System of Mineralogy*. Most of them contain fascinating bits on the history of the gem described, its discovery and its properties.

Dr. Pearl is the second man in the United States to earn the title of Certified Gemologist, highest award of the American Gem society. He is the author of *Mineral Collectors Handbook* and co-author of *The Art of Gem Cutting*. His POPULAR GEMOLOGY is authoritative and interesting.

John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1948. 316 pp., index, selected bibliography, 115 photographic and line illustrations. $4.00.

• • •

BOOK BRIEFS . . .

Father Berard Haile's two most recent studies on the Navajo, *Navaho Sacrificial Figurines* and *Prayer Stick Cutting in a Five Night Navaho Ceremonial*, have been issued by the University of Chicago Press. The first is a study of the making and use of ceremonial objects as remedies for ills caused by minor offenses. The second describes the methods of conducting a five night prayerstick ceremonial. The prayerstick study is illustrated with seven color plates, the other by drawings.

• • •

F. Stanley has compiled the history of Raton, New Mexico, under the title *Raton Chronicle*. Published for the Raton Historical society, the well-written 146-page paperbound booklet traces the story of the area from the times of Coronado to the twentieth century. Stories of early pioneers, stage lines, railroads, bad men, early newspapers and community development are included. The book was published by World Press Publishing company, Denver, Colorado, and the author's address is Box 146, Raton, New Mexico.

What Patterned the History of Our Southwest?

SKY DETERMINES

By ROSS CALVIN

Author of "River of the Sun"

Is the sky—desert-maker and rain-giver—responsible for the grotesque vegetation, prehistoric fortresses, pagan dances and all the strangeness of the Southwest? A brilliant interpretation of the desert country which Ernie Pyle called: "Practically our Southwestern Bible."

ENTIRELY NEW EDITION WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE FAMOUS SOUTHWESTERN ARTIST, PETER HURD

$3.50

Order Now from

THE DESERT CRAFTS SHOP . . . Palm Desert, California

GIFT FRUIT . . . for Christmas

In the illustration are the Assorted Pack (above) and 'Date Surprises'

Delicious sun-ripened dates from the desert gardens of Southern California . . . sent to you or your friends in strong beautifully labelled packages that give added color to the home at Christmas time. The packs listed on this page are but three of 18 dates packages prepared in the Valerie Jean shop for your Christmas gift list.

VALERIE JEAN'S "SOUVENIR"

Our New Gold Can—Commemorating
California's Centennial of Gold Discovery

THREE DIFFERENT PACKS:

1-lb. Valerie Jean Date Cake Squares	$ 1.90
1-lb. Assorted Delicacies	1.90
1-lb. "Date Surprises"—Stuffed with Pineapple, Walnuts, Cherries	1.90
12—1-lb. packs of any of above (to one address)	20.00

(Prices Delivered in U.S.A., Case Lots by Express)

FRESH SOFT DATES "THE MELODY PACK"

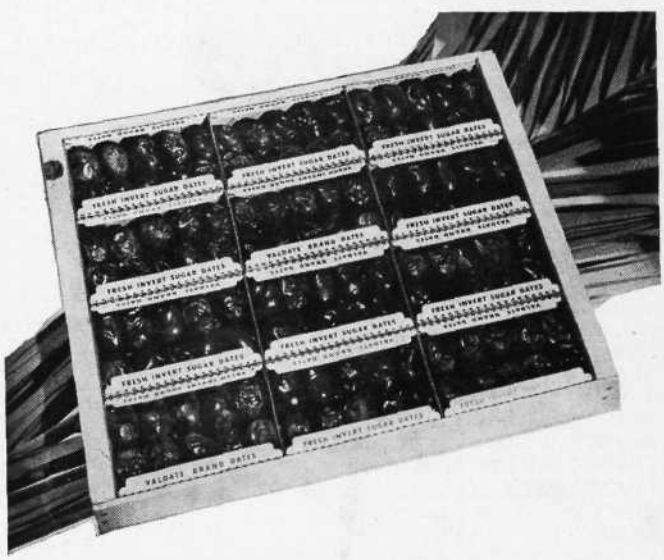
FLAT of 12—10-oz. boxes.....$6.75

(Delivered Prepaid by Express, U.S.A.)

Honestly, nothing of the kind has ever been offered before. All of the varieties are "mellow as a melody" and creamy-soft, as when picked from the palm. Of course, again, orders on this pack will be accepted subject to the supply, which is limited.

A large pack, very appropriate for those who wish to give something **very different** or who might want the small boxes as separate gifts.

Please send for our illustrated folder describing the date cake, date confections, date butter and the varied packs in which this delicious fruit of the desert is available.



ALLDATE ALL PURPOSE SYRUP

2—12-oz bottles	$1.30	1—5-lb. can	$3.00
12—12-oz. bottles	6.00	(Prices Delivered in U.S.A.)	

Made from California dates and contains only natural date sugar.

QUICK PICK UP—Add to ice cold or piping hot milk one part ALLDATE to six parts milk.

CHILDREN'S DELIGHT. They love ALLDATE milk drinks—easy to make—just add to milk and stir.

ICE CREAM—An entirely new flavor on ice cream as a sundae or parfait or to make home-made ALLDATE ice cream.

NEW DESSERTS. ALLDATE frozen dessert. Stir one part ALLDATE syrup into six parts milk and freeze in refrigerator. Stir occasionally from the sides.

SPREAD FOR BREAD—Use on bread and butter.

HOT CAKES AND WAFFLES.

Valerie Jean Date Shop

RUSS NICOLL, Owner — Thermal, California